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Thursday, February 6, 2014

President Mary Lyons to step down in 2015

By Matt Hose
NEWS EDITOR

Mary Lyons, the president of USD for over 10 years, will be stepping down from her position following the 2014-2015 academic school year. According to a campus-wide email first distributed by the Office of the President on Jan. 29, Lyons will complete this year and next academic school year before stepping down in Summer 2015.

She also extended the contract of Andrew Allen, who was the interim vice president and provost during the search for a replacement for former provost Julie Sullivan. Allen will now remain

in the provost position throughout the search for a new president and continue through the 2016-2017 academic year.

Lyons' decision follows a failed search for a new vice president and provost. Allen was originally selected as the interim vice president and provost during the search, in which three candidates were considered for a job. However, after the administration failed to find a new provost, Lyons extended Allen's tenure until two years after she steps down, seemingly to make the transition for the new president smoother with a more experienced provost.

Allen said that the decision is

timely, as a new provost would normally need an experienced



President Mary Lyons

president to show them the ropes at a new university. With him staying in the position as provost through 2017, he, along with the existing staff, could ease the transition for

a new president into the job.

"It's better for the new president to have a team in place, because it takes a while to learn, no matter what your experience is at other schools," Allen said. "Every university kind of works a little bit differently, and so you need some time to assess what's going on. That's usually what happens."

Then, once the new president has been acclimated to USD, the time would be appropriate for a new provost if Allen does not choose to continue at his position after the 2016-2017 academic year.

Allen, who has taught at USD since 1984 and began working in the

administration from around the time that Lyons arrived as president in 2003, praised Lyons' tenure at USD.

"What I [saw was] a shift from USD being a little college on the hill to a university with a national reputation, and I think that's what she helped contribute to building," Allen said. "President Lyons has now set the bar for what the president of the USD needs to do."

In the 10 years she has served as president, Lyons has launched several new programs and headed new initiatives.

See LYONS, Page 2

Maher tree: timber!

By Leeza Earl
STAFF WRITER

For many decades, the iconic leaning tree outside of Maher Hall has been captured in many photos and has given USD students fond memories of their time spent at USD. On Friday, Jan. 10 the Office of Public Affairs informed students in a campus-wide email of the immediate removal of the diseased tree due to the high risk of it falling.

"I was surprised when the email was sent during winter break," senior Ava Izdepski said. "The fact that it was done so soon and no last goodbyes were able to be given I think hurt the USD community, especially the graduating seniors who planned to take photos with the leaning tree on graduation day."

USD facilities took several measures to save the leaning tree. They tried bringing licensed arborists to deep fertilize the tree to no avail. Kimberly Carnot, the facilities management director at Facilities Services and Planning explained that this type of tree tends to lean based on the winds.

Facilities Management believes that this was a result of extensive root damage that was found once they felled the trees.

The tree was removed on Tuesday Jan. 14 by USD facilities and was replaced with new grass but no new

leaning tree.

"They left nothing," junior Danielle DiVittorio said. "Everything was removed, not even the stump was left for memories. They took a part of the USD community that we can never get back."

While Facilities are still determining their next steps, they are considering the best options for the campus' safety.

"We are still weighing options in light of some planned infrastructure and other campus projects," Carnot said. "In the meantime, we are looking to repurpose the felled trees and have provided clippings to Biology in an attempt to see if the trees can be regrown."

Although the removal of the tree was done out of concern for the safety of the USD community, many students wish they could have that one last moment and photos with the leaning tree.

"When I got the email I was in Italy," sophomore Catie Chipman said. "I was shocked that it was being done so fast and wished they would have done more to save it. I hope that the wood for the tree is being used for good use or even maybe giving a piece of the tree to all the graduating seniors."

The leaning tree being removed was very tragic to the USD community, it made some students recall their first leaning tree memories. Freshman



Photo Courtesy of Kimberly Carnot

The iconic tree in front of Maher Hall was cut down due to fears of it falling over. When it was cut down, workers discovered that it had extensive root damage.

Holly Fuhrer recalled seeing the tree on her first day at USD's campus.

"The leaning tree was the first thing my mother and I noticed when we went on a campus tour of USD,"

Fuhrer said. "The tree wasn't the only reason I decided to come to USD, but I will say the tree set USD on a higher scale than any other universities."

The removal of the leaning tree

was a disappointment to the USD community; however, Facilities Management is working to find a safer way to give USD a unique substitute for the curve on campus.

Music brings faiths together in unique service

By Jackson Somes
ASST. NEWS EDITOR



Photo Courtesy of Liz Harmon

Students in the Gamelan Gunung Mas ensemble walked down the aisles of the Shiley Theatre playing percussion for the All Faith Service. The service had the unique theme of "Music as Pathway to the Sacred" this year.

The beginning of the 21st All Faith Service was marked by the sounds of the Gamelan Gunung Mas. This ensemble, consisting of an assortment of drums and gongs, lead a procession of students carrying flags from around the globe as well as members of several faith groups down the aisles of Shiley Theater toward the stage. On Jan. 30 students, faculty and community members filled the seats of the theater to be a part of the annual ceremony.

Unlike any service that has come before it, the theme of this year's service was "Music As Pathway to the Sacred." From the relentless drum beats accompanying a Sufi dancer to the soft sounds of a classical violinist, the music never ceased for more than a few minutes throughout the service.

The concept of hosting a service recognizing other faiths was first implemented by the late Monsignor I. Brent Eagen. Although Eagen has passed, the service he started has become an annual tradition at USD.

According to Sister Virginia Rodee, the assistant vice president of University Ministry, the service represents an important part of the mission of USD.

"We want our Catholic identity at USD to recognize that we appreciate

See FAITH, Page 2

NEWS 1-3

Student funds watch company
Sophomore Nathan Resnick has raised enough money to start production of his own brand of watches.

PAGE 2

FEATURE 6-9

Spice up your USD dining experience
Creative ways to make your on-campus dining a little more interesting.

PAGES 10-11

SPORTS 14-16

Seahawks win Super Bowl
Seattle defense dominates a flustered Broncos offense to win 43-8.

PAGE 14

OPINION 4-5

Stay or shop: manage your spring schedule

As spring semester kicks into full swing, now is the time to make decisions to finalize your class schedule. PAGE 4

ARTS AND CULTURE 10-13

Bethany will leave you wanting more
Bethany is the newest dark comedy to hit the Old Globe Stage.

PAGE 10



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NEWS

EDITOR

Matt Hose
news@usdvista.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jackson Somes
news2@usdvista.comTwenty-first
Century
StalkingBy Matt Hose
NEWS EDITOR

It has been a long and arduous journey, but I think our school has perfected the art of Facebook stalking.

I'm probably a little bit late in the game, being abroad last semester and basically completely removed from actual life on USD's campus. But this new app "MySDMobile" entirely revolutionized the way I started my classes this semester.

If there was a BuzzFeed article written about this app, it would say "LOOK: This App Will Destroy Every Conception You Have Ever Had About What Is Awesome."

Essentially, this app is revolutionizing the way that I Facebook stalk. To be fair, you could say that it has some actual uses. I suppose rather importantly it allows me to electronically see my class schedule.

I didn't have to be that one guy in the Serra Hall entrance room on the first day of classes holding up a piece of looseleaf that looked worn enough to be a piece of Kleenex so that I could find out what room my first class was in. Although I will admit that I was the guy looking hopelessly lost and confused trying to find the painfully obvious staircase in Olin Hall.

Instead, I could look like one of the "normal" people in Serra Hall with my eyes glued to my cellphone not watching out for that wall waiting to meet my face.

So there it is; the app has some practical uses. I found the new way to look up my class schedule.

But then a friend told me about a different feature of the app. Apparently, if you click on the icon for whatever class you are currently in, it shows the entire roster for that class. And this is where Facebook stalking was revolutionized.

So imagine that I saw a cute girl in my first day of one of my classes. I could not tell you a single detail about this girl--partly because I have a terrible memory, and partly because the first day of classes is filled with information overload.

I guess I could have been listening when we did the mandatory class "icebreaker," with all of the required "tell me your name, your major and 2 interesting facts about yourself." But does anyone ever even pay attention to a single detail of syllabus day?

So here I am, in a quandary. I have now seen a cute girl in my class, but I know absolutely no information about her. I think I have a recollection that her name possibly started with an "S," so I decide that now is the time to do some serious investigative journalism. That is where this incredible new app comes in handy.

Last year, the poor students of USD were forced to navigate the unwieldy MySanDiego portal to find out the names of people sitting around them in class.

This involved going back home, opening a laptop, finding the one tab among the labyrinthine MySanDiego pages, and then going to the class name and viewing the whole roster from there.

The whole process was clunky and, to be quite honest, barbaric. I would probably completely forget about it by the time I got back home anyway, allowing the Internet to carry my time in different directions.

As one of these "twenty-somethings" that news outlets love to call me, I need instantaneous gratification that I can know every single detail of this person's life by means of one handy device smaller than my notebook.

So with my cellphone and the new streamlined app, I can now look up my particular class, narrow the roster down to people whose names begin with an S, and then seamlessly segue into my Facebook to see if this mystery woman is a potential acquaintance.

As an introvert, there is absolutely no way that I am going to go up and talk to this girl.

Maybe after I've learned her number of siblings, favorite movies and number of virtual friends, I can work up enough talking points to start a conversation in this quickly withering thing we call "the real world."

President Lyons announces departure

LYONS, continued from Front Page

According to Allen, the School of Business Administration went from being unranked at the start of Lyons' presidency to being nationally-ranked today.

Lyons oversaw the founding of the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies in 2007. Last year she also presented the founding of the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering, made possible by a \$20 million donation from Darlene Marcos Shiley.

She also has stood in solidarity with the LGBT community on campus for the past two years by approving and supporting USD's Drag Show, the first of its kind on the Roman Catholic campus. Lyons approved this event amid pressure from high-profile donors who threatened to cease donations to the school.

Last year she also oversaw the construction of Fowler Park, a multi-million dollar baseball field that replaced John Cunningham Stadium.

Ron Fowler, the chair of the board of trustees and the chief benefactor of Fowler Park, described President Lyons' contributions to USD in a press

release.

"Dr. Lyons has been an exceptional leader of the university, contributing to its steady growth and development for more than a decade, while simultaneously raising its profile and reputation as a stellar, nationally-ranked Catholic university," Fowler said.

Nevertheless, the last few years of Lyons' presidency have also been plagued by controversy, at times spreading across the ocean.

In 2011 former basketball star Brandon Johnson was charged with shaving points while playing for USD. The scandal made national news for several weeks and culminated in the revealing of a Las Vegas centered gambling ring that attempted to bribe other USD students.

In November 2012 another scandal erupted when Lyons rescinded an invitation to British theologian Tina Beattie from holding an honorary fellowship at USD after Beattie signed a letter officially stating that she supported gay marriage.

The story went viral, reaching blogs and news sources across the country and in the United Kingdom.

Locally, many USD students complained through protests and open forums that they felt their degrees from USD had been devalued by the scandal. The issue culminated when a quorum of the academic assembly of the College of Arts and Sciences voted "No Confidence" in President Lyons. Many members of the CAS called for her resignation.

Senior Nick Dilonardo said that Lyons is responsible for any damage done to the reputation of USD students over the Beattie affair.

"Accountability begins where the buck stops," Dilonardo said. "President Lyons's position against Tina Beattie's visit was not in the interest of the students or faculty, both of whom together amount to the shareholders of the university. We are who stand to benefit and be hurt the most by damage to our school's reputation."

Most recently, at the end of last semester, USD issued self-imposed sanctions on the football team while withdrawing from playoff contention and a Pioneer Football League championship. This was done in conjunction with an admission to violating PFL financial aid regulations.

The incident is still under investigation by the PFL.

Dilonardo also said that President Lyons should be held accountable for this scandal, saying that "students were hurt to protect the interest of the institution as a whole."

By press time Lyons had not made it clear whether she intended to take a position at another university following her departure from USD. She was unavailable for comment due to travel plans. She referred to her campus-wide email for comment.

Despite the ups and downs of the past decade, Associated Students President Alex Hermann said that Lyons will leave behind a legacy that will hopefully inspire new leadership.

"The university will certainly feel the repercussions, from losing such a strong leader," Hermann said. "However, I am confident our campus community will rally together and embrace the change. President Lyons will certainly leave a hole in our Torero family, but this will give students, faculty and administration the opportunity to continue what President Lyons has started under new leadership."

Service unites all faiths through music

FAITH, continued from Front Page

and value other religions and traditions," Rodee said.

Back in May of last year, the All Faith Service committee gathered to select a new interconnecting theme for the service.

Usually, according to Rodee, the theme of the All Faith Service is based upon the yearly theme of the Catholic Social Thought initiative. With this year's CST theme 'Call to family, Community and Participation,' Rodee and the All Faith Service Committee decided to compliment the 'Call to Community' aspect of this year's CST theme.

The idea to utilize music as the compliment the theme of community was introduced by Rodee.

"Music is very deep; it's something that speaks to everyone," Rodee said. "You forget your difficulties or if you have any difficulty with someone when music is playing. It's something that binds community."

Local musicians who are also members of various faiths were recruited for the service. Six different faiths were divided into six segments. The segments included a Native American story and flute accompaniment, Buddhist singing bowls, a Christian reflection through violin performance, Hindu song and tabla player, a Jewish Chassidic

Niggun and Islamic Dance and Daf.

According to Rodee, several measures were taken to ensure the service was maintained as a spiritual experience as opposed to a show for the crowd's entertainment.

"We're very deliberate about making it a service," Rodee said. "It's not to show that Nuvi Meta can play the violin."

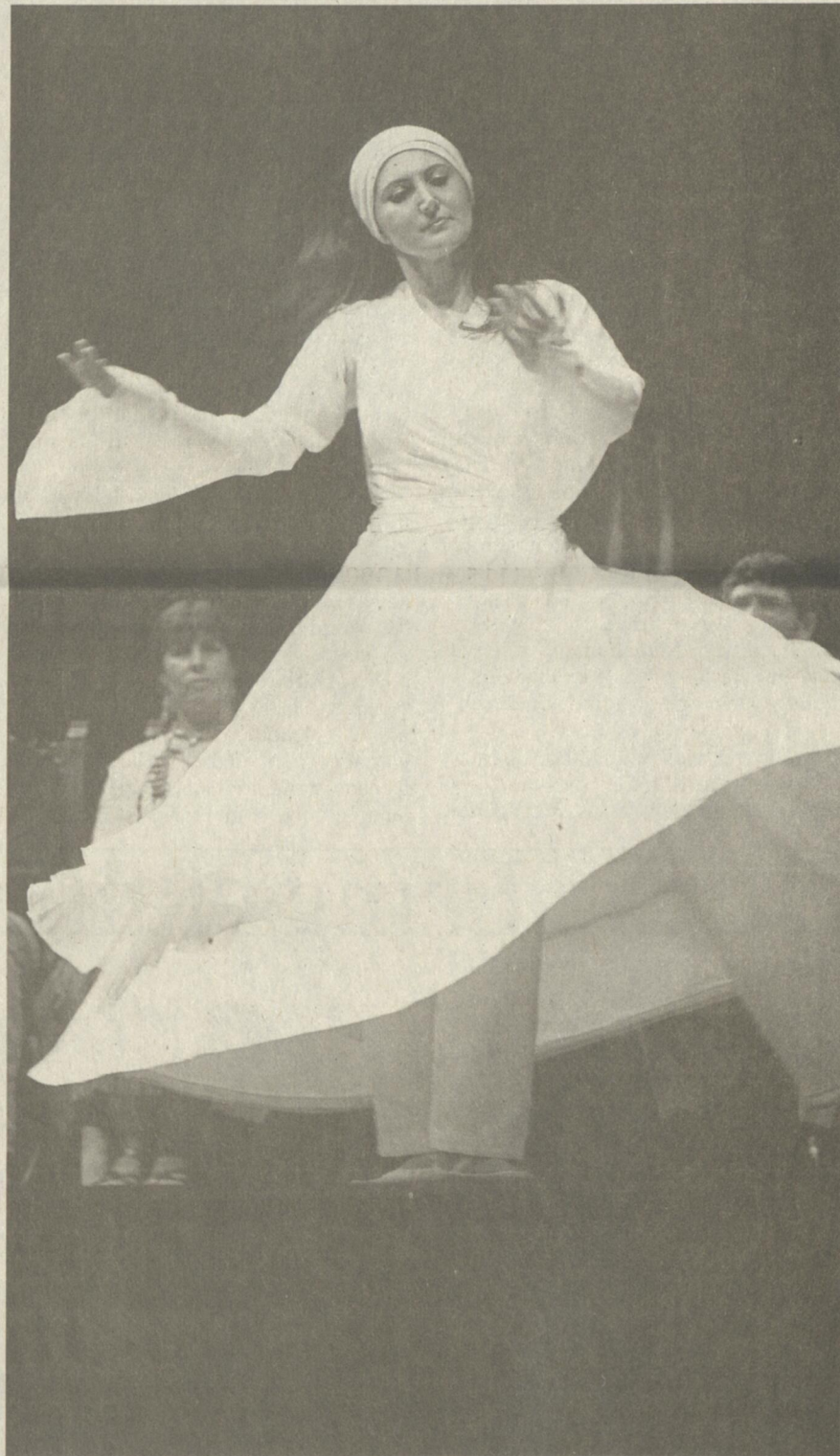
As part of the measures taken to keep the service a spiritual experience each segment began without introduction to keep the focus on the experience instead of the commentary. Additionally, any applause for the event was explicitly reserved for the conclusion of the service.

Junior Louie Benson walked away from the service feeling grateful for what he had experienced. "I really enjoyed how people of many different faiths and cultures treated us with such a great gift," Benson said.

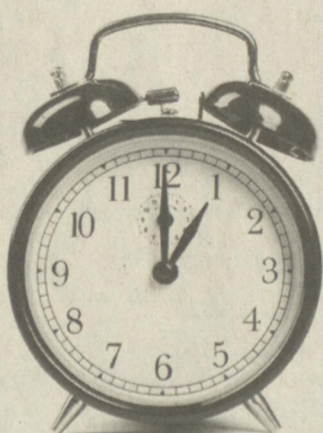
Like Benson, Theology and Religious Studies professor Bahar Davary was enthusiastic about the spiritual power of the service. "What better way to start 2014 than the joyful sound of sacred music from different traditions," Davary said. "The work of All Faith Service is a labor of love. It reflects the inclusivity that our campus and especially the department of Theology and Religious Studies and the mission of Catholic higher education aspire."



A San Diego woman performs a traditional Hindu song at Shiley Theatre.



A Sufi dancer highlights the musical aspect of this year's All Faith Service with a dance.

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Writers needed!

Urban Dictionary
definition of a writer:

A plagiarist of life.

So come "plagiarize" with us!

At approximately 1235 Public Safety responded to a report of a theft. Upon investigation, unknown suspect(s) stole a student's vehicle between 1/31/2014 at 1600 hours and 2/1/2014 at 1800 hours.

Letters to the Editor can be submitted to The Vista office. Letters should be limited to 300 words and must be signed. For identification purposes, USD identification numbers and writer's year must be included in the letter. The Vista reserves the right to edit published letters. Any content sent to the editor will be considered for publication unless otherwise stated.

OPINION

EDITOR
Kendall Tich
opinion@usdvista.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Sara Butler
opinion2@usdvista.com

Embrace the uncertainties of life



By Kendall Tich
OPINION EDITOR

Although it seems as though USD lacks a dating scene, most college students can probably imagine a first date with someone you hardly know.

It may begin with a casual introduction in one of your classes followed by an exchange of cell phone numbers, which inevitably leads to flirty texting, and if you're lucky, a phone call to meet up or go out on a date.

Once the initial excitement of the small talk begins to die down, an uncertainty develops. Will they call me? Will they want to see me again? Did they have a good time?

As human beings, we typically fear this uncertainty.

Instead, we desire the ability to predict what will happen in the future, make assumptions about what another person will be like and explain things that don't necessarily have or need an explanation in order to be understood or accepted.

We crave answers to questions and thoughts that are nearly impossible to explain because we are terrified of the unknown.

While that seems to be the norm and is certainly human, I propose a challenge to everyone in the New Year: try to accept the uncertainty of life and embrace the unknown and unexplainable.

I am guilty of fearing the unknown as well. I panic about the uncertainty of my future once I leave the confines of USD and enter into the real world.

I worry about the health and success of those I love because I know that in any given moment, everything could change.

I panic over the inability to control every single part of my future and I get anxiety over making life decisions because I am unsure of how they will turn out.

All this thinking leads to worrying, which begins a cycle of constant stress.

I believe us, primarily college students in our twenties, to be a generation of worriers.

We are taught to over think things, question everything and try to prove every bit of information that is told to us.

Why is it that we need to explain everything that happens around us? Why is it so hard for human beings, especially college students seeking answers, to just accept that some things are best left uncertain?

One of the biggest uncertainties that people our age seem to have is the existence of God. We are out of the religious grasps of our parents and free to explore our own spirituality and beliefs.

With that freedom comes questioning and uncertainty, most of which people our age tend to avoid.

The fact that there are uncertainties within almost all religious stories and explanations scares us because it makes the rest of our lives appear unknown.

If we cannot attribute certain phenomena and occurrences to religion or a higher power, who or what can we hold responsible for the things that happen to us?

The idea that things can exist or happen without an explanation makes life too ambiguous for most people to handle.

And so the cycle carries on; we observe, discover or hear about something we cannot explain and we have a sudden desire to make sense of it.

Take the first date example. You are caught off guard by the uncertainty of what moves the other person will make and what they are thinking both on the date and after.

But isn't it uncertainty that keeps those dates interesting?

Sure, it's fun to predict how things will turn out and I know I am guilty of spending numerous hours planning out how I envision my future.

The need to explain everything is in our nature and the desire to figure everything out will always be a part of the human race.

However, we must be aware of the things that are better left uncertain and embrace the fact that not everything in this world can be tested, proved or completely understood.

Stay or shop: manage your spring schedule

By Sara Butler
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

As another semester begins, our clean slate starts with new class schedules. With initial class registration months ago, many of us may have put these new opportunities in the back of our minds as we shifted our focus to finals.

Fast forward a month: finals survived, holidays have come and gone and your Netflix binge of those six seasons of an old TV show finished. It's officially spring 2014.

While most USD students have registered for classes, those schedules are likely to change for many of us. Now that the semester is starting to come into full swing, we have to finalize our schedules. This means deciding which classes to keep and which to drop.

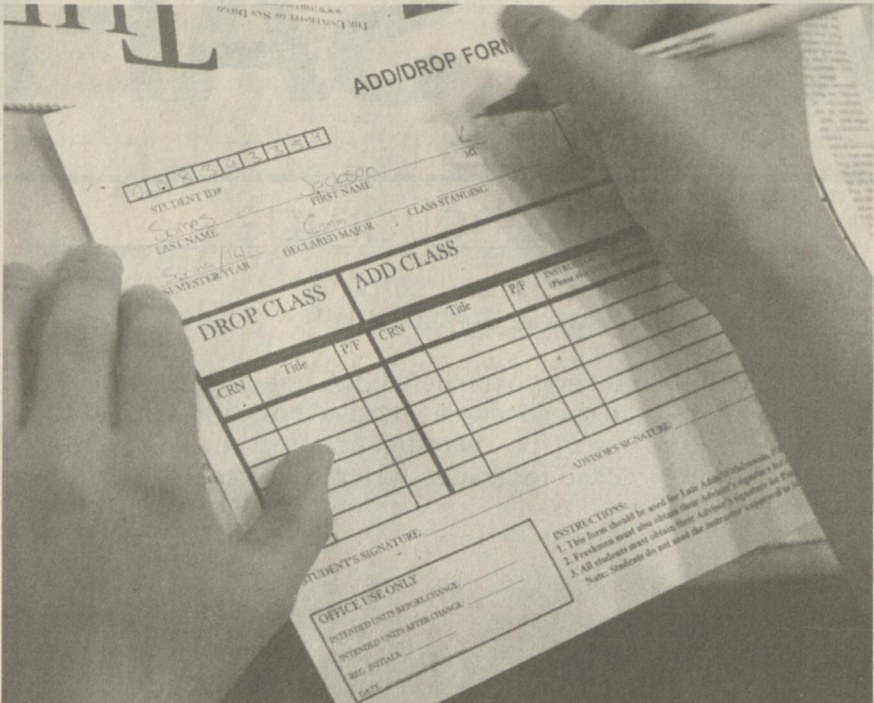
According to the USD website, students can add classes within the first eight days of the semester. For dropping courses, the time frame extends to 10 weeks, and will be recorded as a W.

For freshman, schedule changes require preceptor permission. Otherwise, students just need permission of the professor teaching the course to add their class. For full time enrollment, students must be taking 12 units without exceeding 18 units.

There are many reasons to drop a course. The three main reasons are the professor, course material and time.

The professor may not match his or her "Rate My Professor" review. Even if they have a great rating from students, their personality or teaching style may clash with your student preferences.

A class may not be intellectually stimulating or particularly engaging to you. The subject matter may not be in a field that inspires you to learn. Further, the material could be too hard or too



Kevin Nelson/The Vista
At the beginning of each semester, it is not uncommon for students to strategically decide which classes they should or should not stay in.

easy for your academic level.

Time is also important, because everyone's hours of productivity are different. Maybe an 8 a.m. science course sounded great back in November, but you are the type of person that hits snooze until 7:55 a.m. Or maybe, as an early bird, you have trouble staying awake in a three hour night class.

Just as there are many reasons to leave, there are quite a few to stay.

Almost always, staying in a course is the easiest thing to do. There are no add or drop forms to deal with, no professor drama, no waiting impatiently in line at Onestop, and no classes with assignments and readings that you may have missed the first week.

Beyond that, sometimes taking a course is necessary for successful graduation. Many classes are

prerequisites for others, thus making them necessary to move on in a specific subject. Some majors are especially strict when it comes to these situations, particularly in the science departments.

It is also important to note that not all classes are offered every semester. Some are only offered in the spring, others are random. Many professors teach similar courses from year to year, but there are always changes to consider when planning on taking a specific class or professor.

So when do the benefits outweigh the drawbacks? Well, the situation seems to be different for everyone. In order to figure out what classes to stick with and what you should give up on, it takes an honest evaluation of yourself.

If you know you are not going to be able to wake up in time for that 8 a.m. physics class, there is no point in

wasting your tuition money to take that course. Similarly, if you sign up for a three hour night class simply because it is only one day a week, make sure you are prepared to sit through a long lecture with a cup of coffee and a positive attitude.

While we all want to always take the best professors teaching the most interesting subjects, this cannot always be the case. There are some professors that your friends will love that will just not be your cup of tea, maybe because of their teaching style or exam structure.

Similarly, some classes will excite and fascinate you, while others won't. Our education at a liberal arts university, which includes general education requirements, may be unappealing to some who must take courses outside and seemingly unrelated to their academic focus of study. The point of our liberal arts university is to create well-rounded students, but this does not mean it makes every course relevant and enlightening.

While it is important to try to take as many great professors and engaging courses at wonderful times as you can, realize that sometimes you need to stick with one that is less than ideal for a prerequisite or other necessary general education requirement.

BU Today: Campus Life writer Amy Laskowski offers some helpful advice when your schedule is in crisis. The most important thing is an open mind and willingness. It is in the best interest of the student to attend the first few classes, thoroughly review the syllabus and have an open dialogue with the instructor. This way, you can make an informed decision about the class before you add or drop the course.

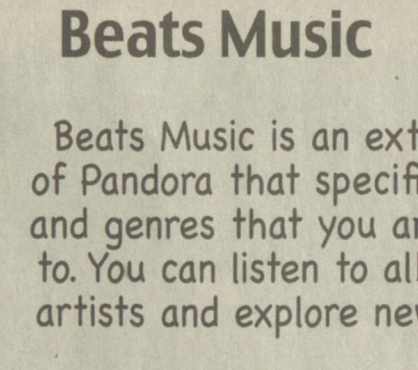
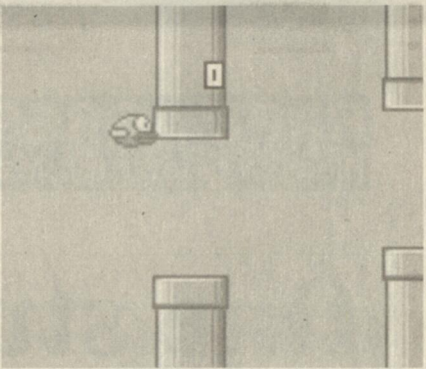
It is important to keep all of these things in mind when navigating your schedule for this spring. By evaluating your class professors, times, and content, you can make an honest and comprehensive decision about when to stay or when to shop.

IPHONE APPLICATIONS OF THE WEEK



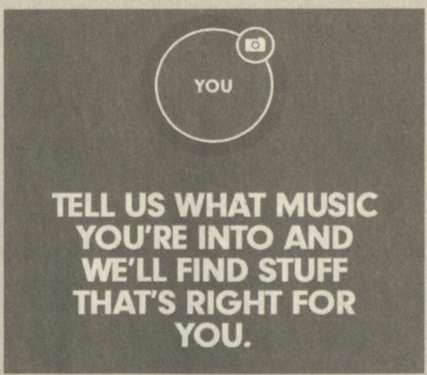
Flappy Bird

Flappy Bird is a game application that channels your inner 90s by combining aspects of Gameboy and recent iPhone games. In this app, you continuously tap the screen in order to keep a flying bird alive and earn points.



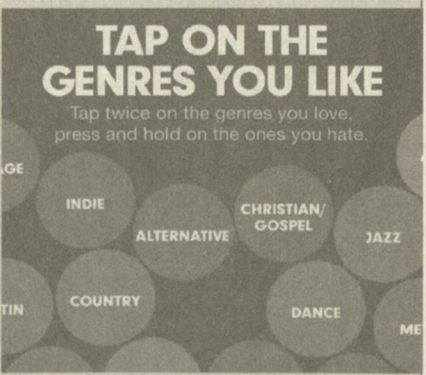
Beats Music

Beats Music is an extended, updated version of Pandora that specifically targets the artists and genres that you are interested in listening to. You can listen to albums from your favorite artists and explore new music from all genres.



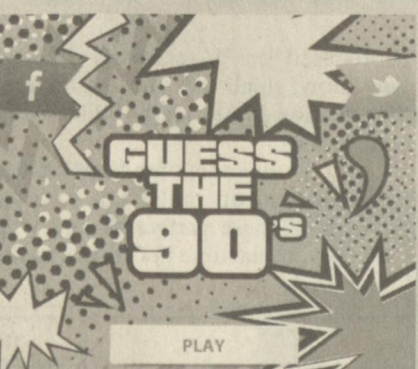
ColorKeys

Do you ever get tired of the same old white keyboard on your iPhone? ColorKeys gives you the option to change the color of your keyboard when you type text messages, status updates, tweets, etc.



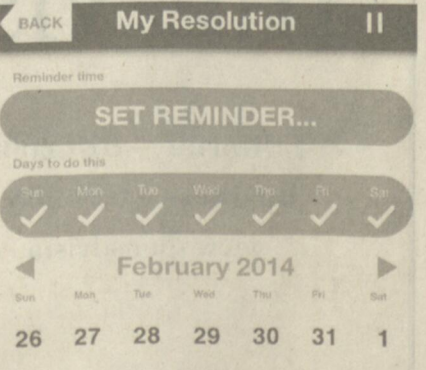
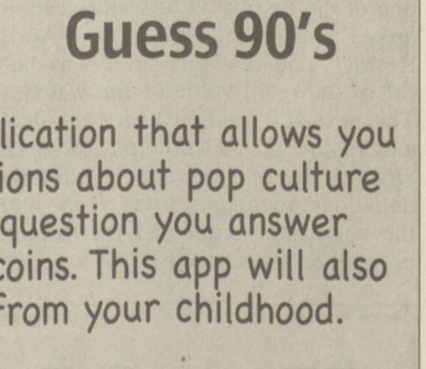
Guess 90's

Guess 90's is a trivia application that allows you to guess different questions about pop culture of the 90's. For every question you answer correctly, you can earn coins. This app will also bring back memories from your childhood.



Good Habits

This is an application that allows you to keep track of activities that you want to turn into habits by using a calendar and reminders. It is a great way to help yourself follow through with your New Year's resolutions.



USD's New Year's resolutions



Alex Vaughn

"My resolution is to try to live each moment to the fullest and to not let any opportunity pass me by."



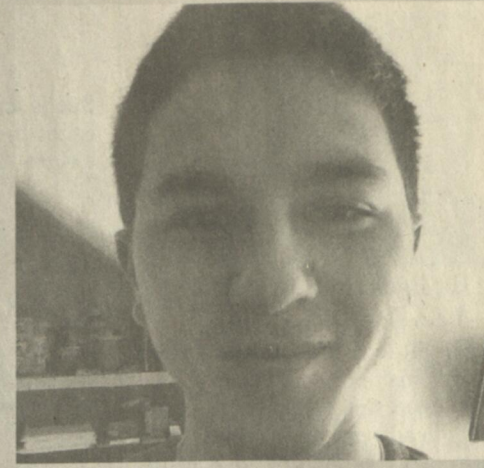
Juliana Lockwood

"My New Year's resolution is to be spontaneous and embrace my passions no matter how quirky they may be."



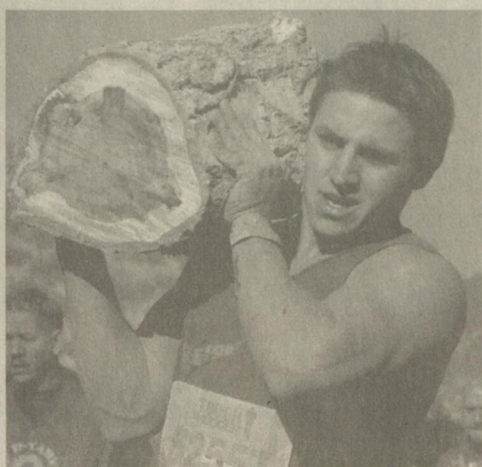
Chloe Spears

"To get involved in more projects and opportunities on and off campus, not just for the resume."



Kevin Matthews

"To get rid of all bad influences in my life."



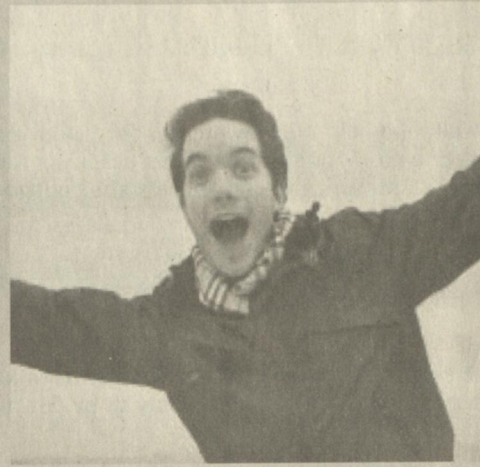
Dalton Pettus

"To train my mind and my body more for the Navy Seals."



Alexa Argumedo

"My resolution is to start a club on campus."



Brent Lyons

"I want to take advantage of the weekends by exploring something new in San Diego every week."



Sarah Reinke

"My resolution is to get more involved on campus and be more organized with classes and my life."



Jenna Palazzo

"My New Year's resolution is to participate more in class discussions and to find an internship."



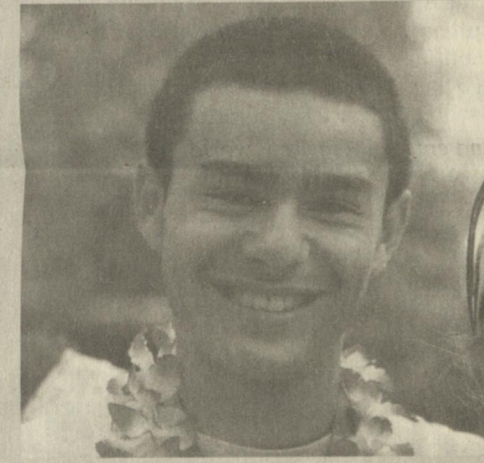
Carrington Novo

"To keep working on becoming the best person I can be and to be more involved at USD."



Sarah Offerman

"My resolution is to find better ways to manage stress and to get an internship."



Joseph Mejia

"My resolution is to not drink soda."

Out with the old, in with the New Year

Are New Year's resolutions just broken promises waiting to happen?

By Allyson Meyer
STAFF WRITER

Running a half marathon: that was my New Year's resolution for 2013. Unfortunately, it never happened and I don't think it ever will.

New Year's resolutions are strange things. Some people use them to help with diet and exercise plans or to push themselves into new and exciting opportunities. Others find them somewhat ridiculous.

Last year, around Christmas, I decided to make a list of things I wanted to accomplish in the upcoming year. It included running a half-marathon.

I decided to have four or five resolutions, hoping that writing them down would help me stick to them. Apparently that didn't work out like I thought.

So why do people like me make resolutions when it seems like so few may be accomplished?

It has become the butt of jokes for

pundits, but New Year's resolutions seem to have taken on a meaning for people of all ages, everywhere in the world.

Possibly originating over 4,000 years ago with the ancient Babylonians, New Year's resolutions have been one

what to eat and what not to eat, trying new diets in search of the right one.

In an interview with NPR, Michael Pollan says that this constant upheaval in diets results in anxiety and the presence of various food trends.

According to the study "Auld Lang

To begin, Zelman writes that it all depends on the planning.

"Making resolutions is the first step, but, experts say, you need a plan and a healthy dose of perseverance if you want to succeed," Zelman said.

Also, according to Zelman,

Simpson sitting on a lawn chair on a treadmill with the caption "I will not let more than four days go by without any physical activity," with the caption underneath reading "And clicking 'watch next episode' on Netflix doesn't count."

Another image shows Adam Levine with a head of lettuce, with the caption "I will eat something green every day. Something besides guacamole that is."

At the end of this entire article, the authors throw this all away, saying, "Eh, who are we kidding? Happy 2014!" Are we being set up to fail by making resolutions the butt of jokes?

Like 28 percent of Americans, according to the Marist Poll "12/23: Turning Over a New Leaf in 2014?", I didn't meet my resolution for last year. But, as the New Year begins it will be the first one on my list, and hopefully this time I'll do it.

A new addition to my resolutions for 2014: to write more. But, as I'm writing this, I'm aware of the irony that it's taken me a month to write this article.

Oh well, there is always next year.

"New Year's resolutions are strange things. Some people use them to help with diet and exercise plans or to push themselves into new and exciting opportunities. Others find them somewhat ridiculous."

of the biggest parts of the New Year ever since.

According to History.com, resolutions were originally seen as a way to "earn the favor of the gods and start the year off on the right foot," and were popular among farmers hoping for the elimination of their debts and the promise to return farm equipment.

Over the years resolutions have morphed from farm based to health based. As a country experiencing a "national eating disorder," according to the book, Omnivore's Dilemma, Americans are constantly uncertain of

Syne", researchers John Norcross, Marci Mrykalo, and Matthew Blagys explore the results of peoples' New Year's Resolutions.

Among those participants who made resolutions, the top resolutions were weight loss and exercise related. According to the study, resolutions that are repeated year after year still have a chance for success.

Many see resolutions as pointless, but according to Kathleen Zelman from WebMD, there are some key factors that make resolutions more likely to be successful.

individuals must have realistic expectations of what they accomplish, and that any lifestyle change takes time and may involve some setbacks.

New Year's resolutions have been the source of humor in our society, possibly influencing the "no can do" attitude.

Shortly after New Year's, I decided to take a look at the BuzzFeed articles on New Year's resolutions. In the article "12 Healthy New Year's Resolutions You Could Actually Stick To," some humorous lines stood out.

One image showed Homer

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Vista strongly encourages letters to the editor from students, faculty, staff, administration and the community.

Correspondence should be sent to editor@usdvista.com with the subject line "Letter to the Editor." Letters for the up-coming edition are due Saturday by 6 p.m.

Submissions should be limited to 500 words and must include verifiable contact information. Letter content is subject to editing for clarity and style.

The Vista does not publish anonymous letters, those addressed to a third party or letters in poor taste.

FEATURE

EDITOR

Brittany Carava
feature@usdvista.comChoose
HappinessBy Brittany Carava
FEATURE EDITOR

A wise little bald man who graced USD with his presence nearly two years ago once said, "Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from your own actions." At first glance this Dalai Lama excerpt may seem like a cliché, cover photo-worthy inspirational quote with a serene beach in the background. However, it is something that I have realized has never rung truer.

As an overworked, overly exhausted and unhappy science major last fall, I never thought by simply changing some small actions, I could become the best, happiest version of myself.

With an easy change in classes, new extra curricular opportunities and a happier outlook on college life, I transformed myself into a new being. I realized that one of these "actions" this ancient guru was talking about was choosing happiness.

By doing this action, you can be the best, happiest version of yourself. That is, if you make the conscious decision to live life in a positive way, positive things will come to you. I challenge each of you to make it a point to choose happiness this semester, this year, for the rest of your life.

Think about it as a New Year's resolution and Extreme Makeover rolled into one. A promise to look at things in a positive light and to makeover your self image, your goals and your outlook on life.

As a junior with nearly six semesters under my belt, I've realized that college presents countless opportunities to make connections, grow as a person and help leave a measurable impact on this beautiful palace on the hill. The challenge that students are faced with is this: how do I choose what to participate in, how much to participate in and still balance my time with school and work?

The answer is simple: do more of what makes you happy. This seems like an obvious suggestion, but discovering what truly makes you happy is a huge lesson to learn at this pivotal point in a college student's life.

Whether it's an area of academics, a club, a Greek organization, or a new hobby, choose what makes you happiest and run with it.

Even if you're unsure how lucrative or how successful you may be in your endeavors, go with it. You never know until you try. Trying to explain this outlook on life may be hard to explain to people, especially your parents. But in the end, your parents, your family, your friends, they want what's best for you and most importantly they want you to be happy doing it.

I am a natural worrier, so one of my biggest fears has always been that I will be stuck doing something that I am miserable with and I won't have an escape route to greener pastures.

Throughout my life, I remember meeting substitute teachers, waitresses, bank tellers and business owners that seemed so incredibly unhappy, that I vowed to never put myself in a position like that.

Not to downplay any of those careers, I just realized in these moments of noticing extreme displeasure with their lives that I couldn't be one too.

Throughout this life transformation, I have been able to put this fear to rest. I realize that money and success can bring happiness, but I don't recognize the value of these accolades without a great deal of love and joy supporting them.

And no, I'm not saying you have to be scarily happy all of the time. We're in college, there's bound to be the days when you overcharge your credit card or forget your laundry for hours in the washing machine or get in a fender bender. You may get a parking ticket, sleep through classes, fight with roommates, or sometimes worst of all, lose your Torero Card, that's life and you can be unhappy about these things. Bottom line of what my wish for my fellow college students is that you lead your life happily and without regret.

Take that class you know nothing about. Join the club that none of your friends are joining. Enter that contest that your professor nominates you for. Take that internship just for the experience. Tell that person how you feel about them.

Who knows, these may lead to the most exciting, happiest moments of your life. So take a chance and believe me, choosing happiness is easier than you think.

Staying fit and active in San Diego

By Katelyn Montero, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Spend any time outdoors in San Diego, and it's easy to see that the residents in America's Finest City are incredibly active. In fact, San Diego is considered the home of the modern triathlon, with the first one held right here in Mission Beach almost 40 years ago. With San Diego's beautiful year-round weather and close proximity to great hikes, biking and running trails, keeping those fitness resolutions in 2014 is easier than you might think. Here are some upcoming events this semester:

2014 San Dieguito Half Marathon & 5K Run/Walk

February 9, 2014

Rancho Santa Fe

Runners can choose between the 5K Run/Walk or lace up their shoes and go for the full 13.1 mile course. Both courses start in the San Dieguito County Park located in Rancho Santa Fe.

2014 Coronado Valentine's Day 10K & 1 Mile Fun Run

February 16, 2014

Coronado

The 4th annual Coronado Valentine's Day 10K is one of the flattest 10K courses in San Diego, making it perfect for runners of all ages and experience levels. What better way to spend Valentine's weekend than on the gorgeous Coronado Island?

Urban 5K Run/Walk for Health Awareness

March 15, 2014

Jacobs Center

Either run or walk and help raise awareness for health and wellness on this 5K course. Dedicated to promoting fitness within urban communities, this run is centered on getting both runners and non-runners alike outside and active.

After Dark Dash San Diego

April 5, 2014

Gaslamp District

This 5K is based off of the concept that senses are often heightened at night. The race begins after sunset and the course is only lit by downtown city lights.

La Jolla Half Marathon 2014

April 27, 2014

Del Mar

The second race of San Diego's Triple Crown starts in Del Mar before offering a challenging climb to the top of Torrey Pines State Park and finally finishing at the La Jolla Cove.

U-T California 10/20

February 16, 2014

North County

This ten-mile long race follows the beautiful coast of North County, with the course winding through Del Mar, Solana Beach and Encinitas. The course has twenty stages set up where local bands will be entertaining runners and walkers.

Sue Krenn 15K

February 20, 2014

Mission Beach

Come be a part of San Diego history as the San Diego Track Club hosts its 49th Annual Sue Krenn 15K. This year, the club's most popular event will follow two loops through Mission and Pacific Beach.

St. Patrick's Day Half Marathon/ 5K/ Green Mile

March 16, 2014

El Cajon

This run offers distances for runners of all experience levels. Participants can run the 13.1 mile half marathon, run or walk the 5K course or bring along the whole family in the Green Mile.

Peace Love Half Marathon, 10K & 5K

April 13, 2014

Mission Bay

Channel your inner hippie and dress the part at the Peace-Love-Run this April. Head down to Mission Beach and choose between half-marathon, 10K & 5K distances

2014 San Diego- Girls on the Go Half Marathon, 10K & 5K

May 10, 2014

Fiesta Island

Maybe girls really do run the world. Choose between three distances and spend Mother's Day weekend on this course around Fiesta Island.

Urban Dictionary definition
of a writer:

A plagiarist of life.

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managing@usdvista.com



USD offers assistance to Hondurans in need

By Brittany Carava
FEATURE EDITOR

USD students are known for their charitable outreach and community service on campus. However, these Toreros brought their compassionate service far beyond the borders of Linda Vista. The USD chapter of Medical Brigades sent students to Honduras for a week long trip during intersession to open temporary clinics, providing a wide range of health care that residents of the Latin American country rarely have access to.

Junior Sara Aranda traveled to the developing nation to help provide care for different patients of various ages and health conditions. "Clearly a big objective of the trip is to provide healthcare to as many individuals as possible," Aranda said. "In a span of three clinic days we were able to help somewhere around 650-700 people total. Many also got to see a dentist and women had the option of visiting an OBGYN."

The members of Medical Brigades also hoped to expand their horizons from their USD bubble and provide for the people in need. "We wanted to gain more perspective of how people in other countries live and learn from this, while also trying to give back as much as we could in the short amount of time we were there," senior Laura Mckniff said.

Students were able to witness a very unique community setting, providing inspiration for helping out their fellow Toreros.

"People in these communities rely on each other to look out for one another and won't think twice of going out of their way to help a fellow community member out," Aranda said. "It reminds me to look out for others when I go back to USD - to go out of my way if someone needs help and not get so caught up in my own little world and remember to look out for others more often."

Beside administering medication to the Honduran residents, Medical Brigades students were able to implement proper sanitation programs called "charlas" in their younger patients. "It was great to teach the children about simple things like washing their hands, brushing their teeth, proper eating habits and picking up garbage and then watch them retain the things we taught them," Aranda said. "It was so cool to see that something we had taught them had stuck."

During their week-long stay, students also visited an orphanage where they set up one of their clinics and were able to play with the children living there. "I remember when we exited our vans and saw the kids at the gates waiting for us to enter. It brought a joy and satisfaction to my heart when first seeing them because

all they wanted to do was play around and enjoy our company," junior Tony Alarcon said.

Finally, the students were also able to work on dental care with their youngest patients in the community of Las Aminas. "Even though I barely speak a word of Spanish it was the most amazing day and the children were so fun and full of life. I honestly had the time of my life and the language barrier was pretty much nonexistent with them," Mckniff said.

For every member of Medical Brigades, their inspirations for joining this service organization are varied; however, it is clear that each of their experiences are something they will never forget.

"What inspired me to join the organization was when I heard the word 'service'," Alarcon said. "Although when I first joined the organization, I did not know what to expect, what I did know was that Medical Brigades was going to change the lives of these people and hopefully improve their situations."

Alarcon sees his experience in Medical Brigades as a foundation for his future career in medicine. "Thanks to Medical Brigades, I know that in the future throughout my career, I will look back on these experiences and know that there are countries out there that are in need of help and must use our assistance to continue improving."



Members of Medical Brigades provide healthcare and wellness programs to the people of Honduras.

Photos Courtesy of Brooklyn Dippo

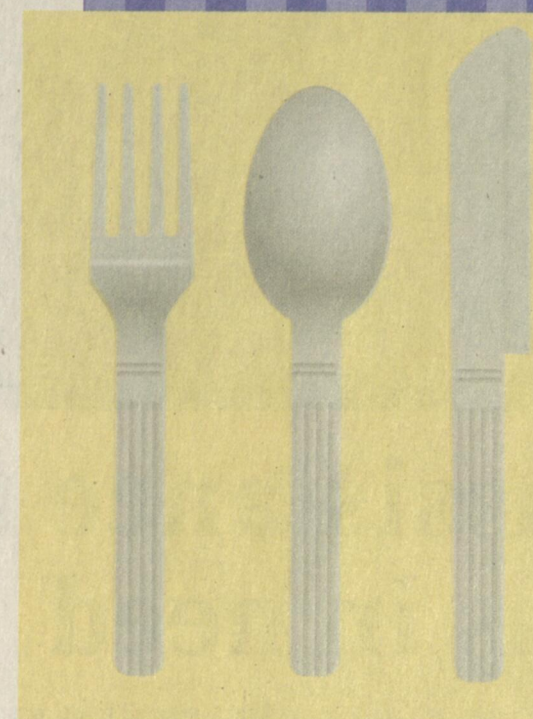
FEATURE

FEATURE
Brittany Carava
feature@usdvista.com

ART DIRECTOR
Colleen Buffington
cbuffington@usdvista.com

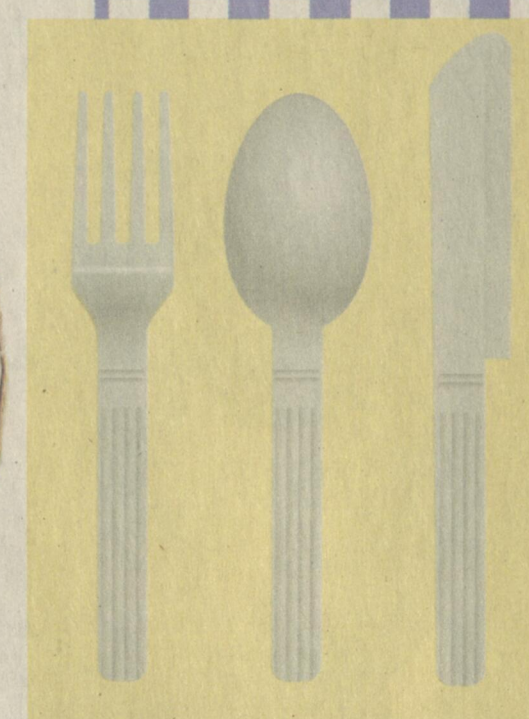
Spice Up Your USD Dining Experience

Everyone knows about Starbucks and In-N-Out's "Secret Menu" but what students may not know is their favorite on-campus eating establishments have secret menus of their own. Although it may be a drag to go back to eating the same few things at the SLP or Bert's, there are a plethora of ways to get creative with USD's award-winning cuisine. Take this semester to sample a few new creations off the beaten path at USD's eateries.



Tapenade (Pasta Bar)- Go by the rice cookers located between Maiz (Mexican) and Nori (the sushi station) grab a bowl of brown rice and head over to Tapenade. Pick your favorite toppings and the Pasta Man will saute up your new creation.

Maiz (Mexican)- Choose your favorite protein (steak, chicken, pork), black beans and toppings like guacamole or sour cream. Then head over to the salad bar to get bell peppers, corn, salsa and other veggies to complete your Chipotle-style fajita salad.

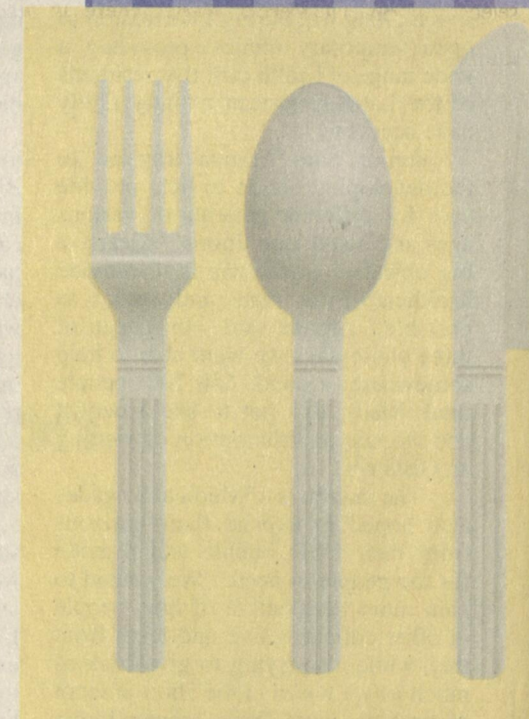


Sea Salt (Burgers/Chicken)- If you're gluten-free or wanting to go low-carb, Sea Salt has grilled chicken sandwiches, burgers, or veggie burgers-just ask for no bun, pair with a salad and add the veggies and other proteins at the salad bar. Getting creative with Sea Salt's grilled dishes allows for a both satisfying and nutritious meal.

Lemon Grass (Pho/Curry)- While many students may be familiar with the popular Vietnamese dish pho, the chefs of the SLP are also whipping up traditional yellow curry. Brown rice, vegetables, chicken or tofu in a warm yellow curry sauce complete a delicious treat that's definitely a change of pace.

Breakfast- While La Paloma has received a huge renovation, their menus are changing even more to cater to students' taste buds. Some student may not know that you can enjoy breakfast all day long with fresh, savory scrambles and breakfast sandwiches, flavored pancakes and a student favorite chicken and waffles. Swing by La Paloma during the non-peak hours and you're sure to enjoy their delicious new creations in just a few minutes.

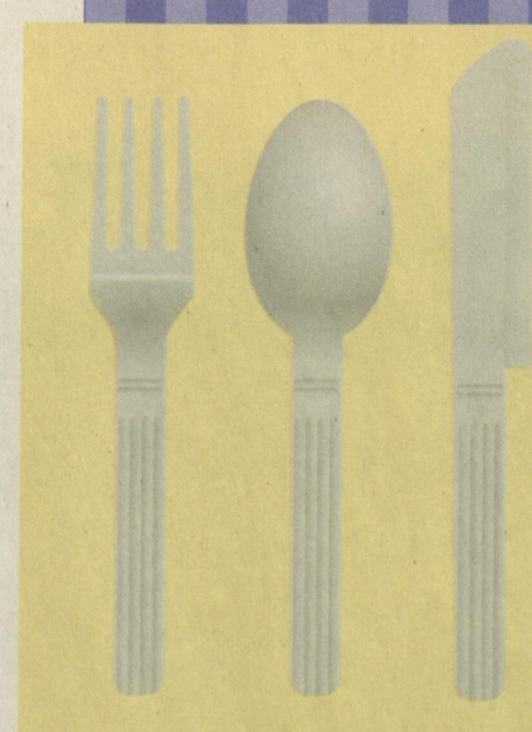
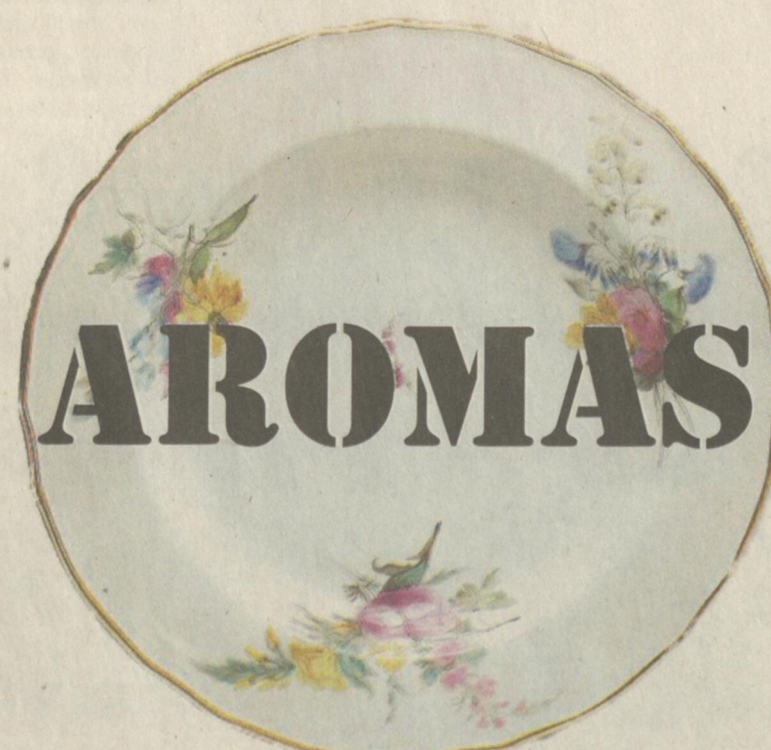
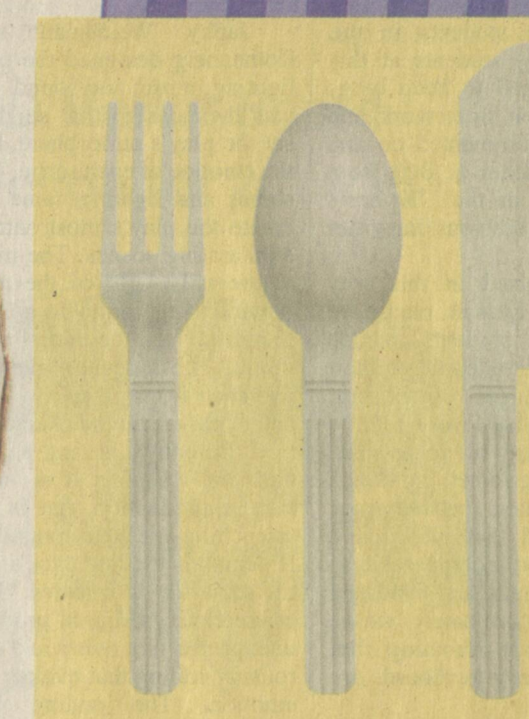
Coca Cola Machine- The gleaming high tech red machines have the ability to make any combination of sparkling water, lemonade, sodas and endless flavorings, to create a refreshing beverage that you can't get anywhere else on campus.



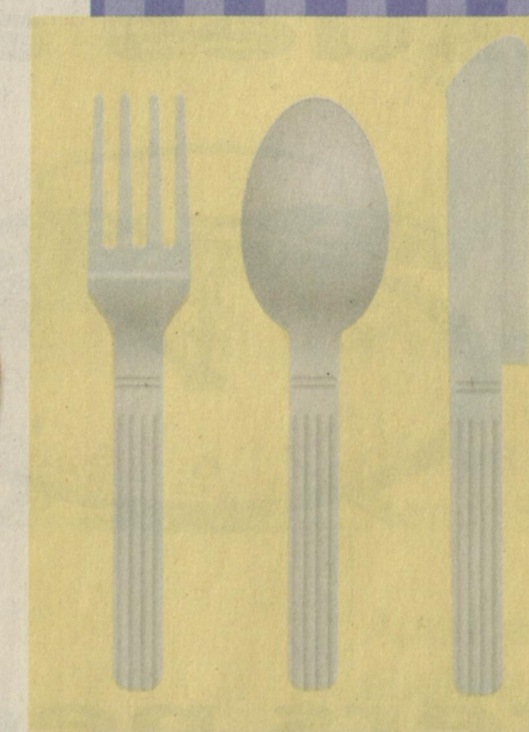
Make your own- Although there are many appetizing selections on Tu Merc's menu, there is also a more customizable option. Just listen to the student ordering in front of you and you may just hear a crazy combination of the ever-present chipotle mayo, chicken, veggies and basil all wrapped up in a warm tortilla- that is if the oven isn't broken.

Breakfast Sandwiches- Hidden on the column between the gelato case and the coffee line is the inconspicuous breakfast sandwich menu. Choose a savory bagel flavor, and a combo of meat, egg and cheese to satisfy your early morning munchies.

Pasta- Concealed on the side of Tu Mercado near the refrigerated section are four gleaming silver containers next to the small salad bar. Tu Merc has a daily rotating menu of spinach alfredo pasta, marinara pasta, pesto pasta and more. If you're craving pasta before the SLP opens for dinner at 4:30 this hidden spot is the place to go.



Crepes- While these tasty French creations are now served well into the lunch hour, there are a number of ways to create the ultimate fancy delicacy. Sample savory crepes such as the pumpkin crepe during the fall, or the raspberry crepe during Valentine's Day. Mix and match the breakfast and savory crepes such as the #1 Breakfast crepe, add avocado and pesto instead of chipotle mayo and you have an original creation all your own to brag about to all the people in your study group.



This sometimes forgotten eatery hidden within Mother Rosalie Hill Hall has a variety of different options to satisfy any craving. Create your own delicious quesadillas, fresh sushi rolls, grilled barbecue creations and diverse sandwich options.

Images by Fae/Wikimedia Commons, Ossipro/Wikimedia Commons, Mizunoryu/Wikimedia Commons
Colleen Buffington/The Vista

ARTS & CULTURE

EDITOR

Khea Pollard

arts@usdvista.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Anastasia Macdonald

arts2@usdvista.com

Addicted
to it



By Khea Pollard

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Sometimes I think I should just delete my Facebook, deactivate my out of date but still existing MySpace page and completely disconnect from Twitter. I am not very active on any of these sites. I use them to keep tabs on what's happening, what people are doing, what's hot and what's new. It's stalker-ish really. A good way to keep my nose wedged inconspicuously in the business of others from a comfortable distance. But I'm only capable of keeping tabs on those willing to bare their souls online. It's a way for me and others to get to know you without really knowing you. The 'networking' portion of the phrase social networking is silent.

I consider myself a very private person. I don't have the desire to post statuses for people I don't speak to, or post an identical selfie every day of the week. If I really need to speak to you I have your phone number, and I'll use it. Call it a personality quirk. The ways in which we use social media have distorted its value. From inception the internet was the prime vessel for networking, aiding in the creation of productive business relationships. Today we share everything from Vines to Buzzfeed quizzes. Even our most minute thoughts are worthy of publication.

In some countries social media is utilized in the classroom. Sandvika High School in Norway uses social media to connect with other administrators from schools around the world. On teaching blogs they seek advice about lesson plans and activities to share with their students in the classroom. Similarly, students at this school are encouraged to keep blogs where they post their homework and it is subsequently commented on and graded. Another teacher at Bett from Burntwood School in the UK hosts question and answer sessions on twitter before his exams.

Social media used in this way can be beneficial. Lesson plans are more accessible to students outside the classroom, and students get their questions answered instantly in the form of a tweet. Still, in my eyes, nothing beats a good old handwritten message. When we are writing something down, there is a connection between our brain and our hand that is primary. It's indescribable and incomparable to eyes on a backlit screen and hands on computer keys. Unfortunately we've spent the last decade rerouting that connection. Our qwerty keyboards are our new appendages.

We know how to navigate a network but we're failing in basic conversation. If we're giving kids tablets and twitter early on because it's convenient, we're dictating to them that this an acceptable way to connect with others. The easier medium of communication wins. Instead of searching for sitting down with our teachers and discussing our work, or looking for searching for people to chat with at the Immaculata fountain, we're searching for wifi.

I suppose that's where our society is headed. We live in a very individualistic nation where most daily activities are done solo. Many of us feel like it's us against the world and we feel pressure to rise to the top ten percent of our class. I've been told USD students are unfriendly. I both agree and disagree with this statement. Generally speaking, many students on this campus, myself included, are not as outright friendly as students on other campuses. When you engage the right USD student in conversation for an extended period of time, you often discover we are pretty nice. Whether this is a USD thing, or a San Diego thing, remains to be seen. Yet we are all over the social networks, connecting, sharing, and I see familiar faces every day on this small private campus.

Because of Facebook, I know a significant amount of information about people whom I've only spoken to once. This becomes incredibly boring. Where's the mystery? Social networking sucks the fun out of basic human interaction. We should connect with our mouths not our fingers. Alas, if we can't stop the runaway train that is social media, we may as well climb aboard. Now, I'm going to go check my newsfeed.

Bethany will leave you wanting more

The Old Globe Theatre premieres the dark comedy Bethany

By Vincent Vidaurri

CONTRIBUTOR

The latest tale of desperation and betrayal has reached The Old Globe Theater. The dark comedy "Bethany" opened Jan. 31 to exuberant crowds. "Bethany" revolves around Crystal, a woman down on her luck, fighting for stability in her life. Though she is on the verge of losing her job at a Saturn dealership, Crystal needs to find a place of her own. She finds a home, only the place she's chosen is a recently foreclosed home already occupied by a homeless squatter named Gary.

The two form an unlikely friendship and agree to live together to support one another. Crystal eventually reveals to Gary she needs the house to reclaim custody of her daughter, Bethany. Running low on money and time, Crystal believes the substantial commission from the sale of an expensive new car will be the end of her problems.

Soon after, Crystal meets Charlie, a suave professional speaker, who agrees to buy a car with the condition that she sleep with him. A love triangle ensues between the three characters and emotions run wild. Gary's unhinged temperament, Charlie's unabashed pursuit of his desires and Crystal's wiliness to do anything to survive leads to a climax resolved only in the final scenes of the play.

The play is full of superb acting from a seasoned cast of actors. Two time Emmy winner, Jennifer Ferrin plays Crystal, perfectly capturing the frustration and desperation of a mother willing to do anything for her child. Throughout the play, the anxiety in her eyes was visible, imploring the audience to feel compassionately for her character. Carlo Albán as Gary, delivers most of the play's comedic relief, with his tactless one-liners and ludicrous government conspiracy theories. He brings an abundance of raw emotion to the his portrayal of a troubled and mentally ill homeless man.

Japhy Weideman and Leon Rothenberg designed the production's lighting, music and sound. At times, it was their design that single handedly set the play's atmosphere, heightening the emotion of each scene. The musical scores and lighting came together to create the play's most entrancing and exhilarating scenes. The night scenes, where only light of the moon shone down and the ambient noise of night, immersed the audience and set the mood. These scenes transformed the audience from passive watchers to an active players in the characters' lives.

"Bethany" is not a lighthearted and carefree play. It is an emotional ride, a production that is full of gut wrenching and heart pounding energy. It demands the audience's attention to the stage for 90 minutes. "Bethany" is a remarkably original production with unexpected plot twists and surprisingly rousing ending that evokes unexpected emotion. The ending leaves the audience questioning the future of the characters after their lives have been so drastically altered. Production will continue at The Old Globe Theater until Feb. 23.



Photo Courtesy of Jim Cox

Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and Carlo Albán as Gary in the West Coast Premiere of Laura Marks' Bethany, directed by Gaye Taylor Upchurch, Jan. 25 - Feb. 23, 2014 at The Old Globe.

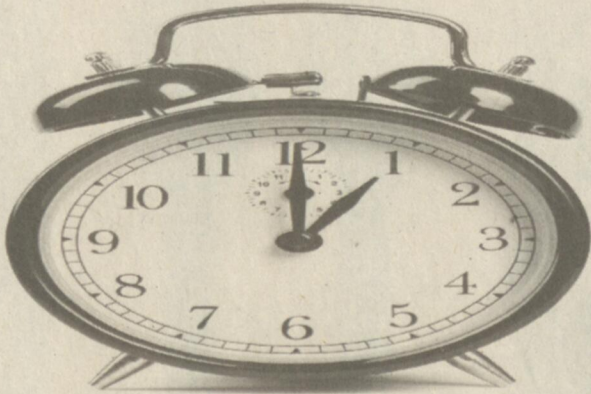


Photos Courtesy of Jim Cox

(from left) Jennifer Ferrin as Crystal and Sylvia M'Lafl Thompson as Toni in the West Coast Premiere of Laura Marks' Bethany

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ARTS & CULTURE

11



Spotlight on African American and diaspora cinema

By Chelsea McLin
CONTRIBUTOR

Located in the lively Gaslamp District, the Black Film Festival showcases films centered around the African American community, bringing just a little more culture to San Diego.

The Black Film Festival is an annual event lasting four days. Films directed and produced by local artists are submitted, viewed and judged by a professional panel. Only the best of the bunch are selected for the

festival. Filmmakers submitted films in several categories: dramatic feature, documentary feature, documentary short, dramatic short, religious, comedy, animation, music video, cutting edge and GLBT.

Filmmakers, actors and movie lovers joined together at the Hard Rock Hotel and Reading Cinema Theater. The first day of the festival was held on Jan. 31 and featuring the films selected for opening day. Day two hosted a Shaft "Superfly" party and evening films. Day three activities included a filmmaker's breakfast and panel, a series of Black History Month

films and the awards gala. The festival closed with more films in the running for awards.

The motto of the Black Film Festival, "Spotlight on African American and African Diaspora Cinema," was certainly fulfilled. The festival's focus on African American film brought about unity between all ethnic communities.

Tony Kelley, an actor in the film "A Victor Crowl's Victory," the story of a bi-sexual man struggling as a musician, shows a great deal of respect for the festival's purpose.

"It was really interesting," Kelley

said, "Victor, the director, was back and coming to this festival we didn't know what to expect, but it's great. I'm a white guy from Ireland, and I worked with two guys from Canada so it was daunting. But it was so welcoming and a real eye opener. Everyone here is very talented."

The festival displays Black cinema positively and highlights some great work. It gives opportunity to local filmmakers to share their work a larger, more diverse audience and receive recognition. Movie topics ranged from comedies about love to dramas on sexuality.

Freshman Ceci Fuentes, is a huge supporter of events that support arts in minority communities.

"Sometimes films have minorities play stereotypical roles and they can't branch off into anything else. It's refreshing to see the African American community perform leading roles or directing movies with their vision in mind," Fuentes said.

There are many opportunities to be involved with the festival. The behind the scenes work isn't limited just to filmmakers and actors. San Diegans looking to get directly involved can register online to work as a volunteer.



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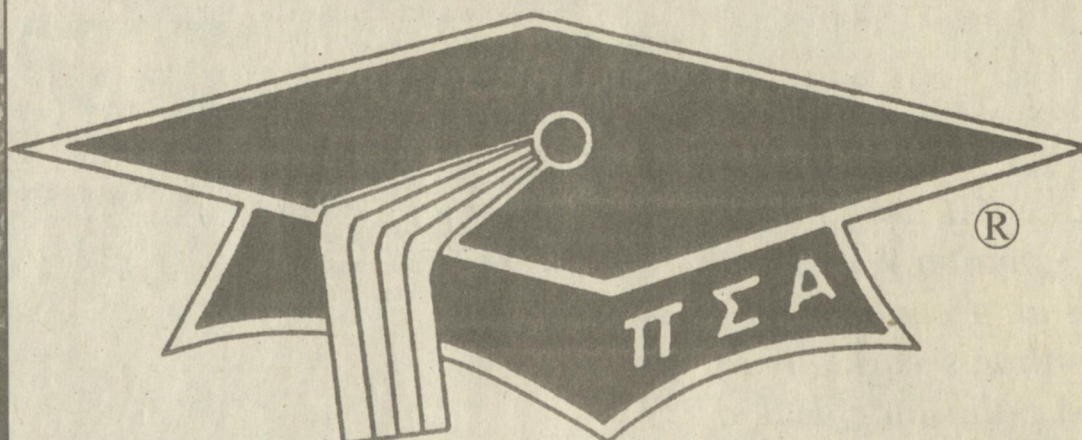
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If you meet these requirements, you are invited to apply for membership in the Alcalá Chapter of Mortar Board, the National College Senior Honor Society (established in 1918).

Applications were emailed to academically eligible students January 24, 2014.

If you meet the above criteria and did not receive an email, please call (619) 260-4720.

**COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014.**

ARTS & CULTURE

EDITOR

Khea Pollard
arts@usdrista.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Anastasia Macdonald
arts2@usdrista.com

ThePortfolium, a more holistic resume for college students

By Katelyn McCullough
CONTRIBUTOR

Move aside LinkedIn, there is a new website on the proverbial job-hunting, resume-building block and it is far more student friendly. For years, LinkedIn has been the forum that students and business people alike have used to network and find jobs. The recurring complaint about the site is that it is difficult to show employers how qualified a candidate is when a resume is the only basis available. ThePortfolium, seems to be the solution to this problem, and it is becoming quite popular in the college community.

ThePortfolium is an academic networking site that specializes in the sharing of interactive portfolios of students across all majors. ThePortfolium allows students to quickly create their own interactive portfolio with individual entries showcasing hobbies, talents, skills and projects. These entries help each student set themselves apart from other applicants to show off their skills beyond the classroom. Each student's portfolio fills in the gaps left in one's resume. It allows employers to see examples of a student's skills via powerpoints, work samples, videos and a little bit about who they are as a person.

The success of ThePortfolium is evident at UC San Diego, where it was originally presented to the student body by alumna of the Engineering school, Adam Markowitz. Markowitz sought to remedy the issues he found after graduation. He found it was difficult to differentiate himself from others using only a LinkedIn profile and a resume. "Students take similar classes and find themselves at a disadvantage on LinkedIn due to their minimal professional work history," Markowitz said. "Portfolium allows students to showcase the actual work and skills that result from those classes, while also proving their passion outside the classroom. That's what employers want to see these days."

Nicholas Montoya, a sophomore at UC San Diego studying mechanical engineering, has attributed his success in securing an internship

The screenshot shows the ThePortfolium website interface. At the top, there's a 'Share' button and a 'Message' button. Below is a large profile picture of Jonathan Hughes, a young man with short brown hair, wearing a suit and tie. To the right of the photo, his name 'Jonathan Hughes' is displayed, followed by a tagline 'Results driven; looking for challenges with innovative solutions' and his affiliation 'University of California - San Diego (UCSD) - MS Structural Engineering 2013'. Below the profile, there are navigation tabs: ABOUT, PORTFOLIO (selected), TAGS, NETWORK, and GROUPS. The main content area shows several portfolio entries. One entry is titled 'Engineering and...' and features a diagram of a bicycle frame with labels for 'Rear wheel, R', 'Front wheel, F', and 'Rear frame including rider body, B'. Another entry is titled 'Civil Engineering' and is about 'NON-DESTRUCTIVE...' research. A third entry is titled 'Structural...' and is about 'IMPACT DAMAGE FORMATION...'. Each entry includes a small thumbnail image, a title, a brief description, and a 'By Jonathan Hughes' credit.

Photos Courtesy of Katelyn McCullough

and now full-time offer at Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems to Portfolium. Montoya has also credited ThePortfolium to his success with recruiters at job fairs. With more than 25 entries in his portfolio, he has built a collection of his achievements both inside and outside of the classroom.

ThePortfolium is open to all majors and all industries, and there are job postings available for any type of industry. These job postings are often made by huge multinational corporations, such as Verizon Wireless. Large companies are

using ThePortfolium to find capable applicants. Surveys completed by these companies have shown that they value the benefits of being able to see the details of an individual's accomplishments. The bare minimum printed on a resume sometimes just isn't enough.

In fact, many students on other campuses are using their portfolios to supplement the information on their resumes.

"Portfolium is very easy to use, and the interactive nature of the site validates your identity, qualifications

and compatibility," USD senior Molly Maclean said.

One of the best attributes of Portfolium is that its purpose is to help users secure a desirable position after graduation. A portfolio shows that life experience is just as valuable as internship experience. Advocates of ThePortfolium believe little work experience should not be the factor that determines whether a certain job is attainable.

"ThePortfolium perfectly aligns with our generation's dependence on technology. The ability to go beyond the

limits and constraints of a traditional resume makes ThePortfolium stand out among the rest," 2012 USD graduate Katrina Tate said. "From highlighting achievements outside of the classroom to visually displaying past experiences, ThePortfolium provides the necessary tools and components to convince potential employers you are the right one for the job."

Whether or not ThePortfolium will replace LinkedIn as the prime source for networking remains to be seen. Still, the website's promise is worth noting.

Artists' Corner: Author Shannon Wheeler

By Khea Pollard
A&C EDITOR

Each week The Vista aims to showcase student artists. Junior Shannon Wheeler is an accomplished author, securing her first publishing deal at the age of 18. Wheeler agreed to sit down with us and talk about the art of writing and the impact it's made in her life.

TV: How did you get your start in writing?

SW: My father writes and he's always thought literature was important so both those things I was exposed to, at a very young age. So, basically as soon as I could start putting letters and words together I started creating stories. Because for me in that environment, that's what you did. I started and never stopped.

TV: How young were you exactly?

SW: Well, I was still having problems differentiating between the letters B and D. So, I was quite young. It might've been better than what I do now because those were illustrated [laughs].

TV: Wow. What type of stories were you writing at such a young age?

SW: I started writing really dramatic epic fantasies since the start. I think what I do now is actually on a slightly smaller scale. There aren't as many dragons. Sometimes I look back and think, 'wow, I'm not as creative as I was when I was three feet tall.' But yes, my writing was always dramatic.

TV: So would you call yourself a 'fantasy author,' or are you against labels?

SW: I love labels. Labels and categorization systems are so much fun. If you play with them rather than get upset about them, which is a lot of what authors do when they're called fantasy authors. But, I don't know, I'm fine with it. It's the grand tradition.

TV: You've already published your first book, no small task for any author, at any age.

SW: It is amazing, and very weird. I actually sold it when I was 18. The process was kind of prolonged because my novel was behind George R.R. Martin's on the press.

TV: Sea Change is your debut novel. How long was the writing process?

SW: The first couple paragraphs, which was just a stylistic piece with certain characters, I first wrote it when I was 15 years old. And I've been going back and back to those characters and that novel for the past three years. My final novel, if I'm recalling my numbers correctly, is something like 90,000 words, which actually isn't actually that large for a fantasy novel. So, roughly 300,000 words in three years.

TV: Let's just take a moment to reflect. You've been published. For some people, that takes years and for others it never happens. It's a huge accomplishment.

SW: You know, I actually didn't try to. This is my favorite publishing story. I did not give my manuscript to anybody. My father had it and he gave it to the editor of Tor Books. So I got a call from David Hartwell one day, and he said, 'I'd like to buy your novel.'

TV: I can imagine you were in complete and utter shock.

SW: Oh yes. I said 'really where did you get it?' So, I'm really ideologically writing for writing's sake and people constantly remind me I'm published. That kind of weakens my position a little, but I still believe that.

TV: You got that call when you were 16 years old?

SW: I got the call when I was 18. It was very surreal. I was most excited when he compared the book to "The Last Unicorn" by Peter S. Beagle. At that point I made the really undignified squeally noise. I still get flustered over it.

TV: So would you describe yourself as a fantasy author? Is that your niche?

SW: It's such a broad label in a lot of ways. And most people, when they hear that, think about epic fantasy, which isn't my comfort zone. "Sea Change" is more of a fairy tale adaptation, dark fairy tale. I've done modern realism, contemporary fantasy fiction, so I do a lot of things. When I'm feeling particularly pressed about labels I'll just say speculative fiction because then I can feel like I can do whatever I want, since it's not real.

TV: I've read "Sea Change" and was really impressed by the depth and complexity of each character. Where do you get inspiration for these characters?

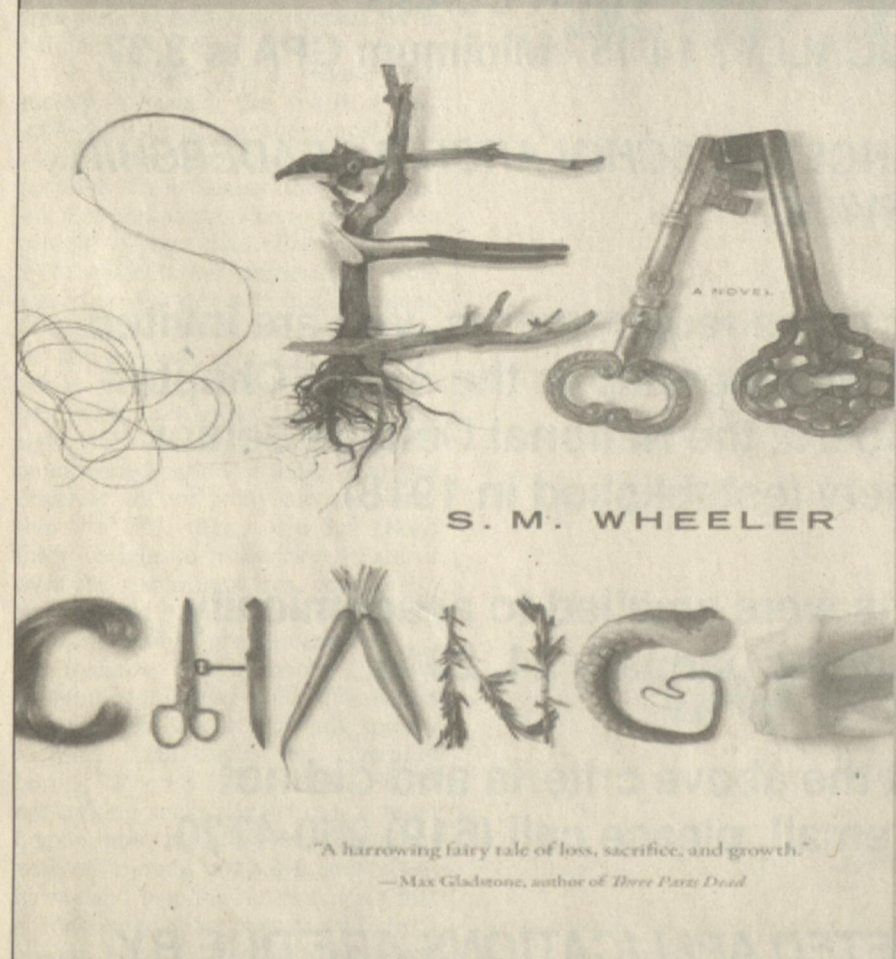
SW: I've answered the inspiration question a lot, and differently each time. If you track my interviews I look like such a liar. I think part of that is the fact that it is so hodge-podge. You see everything in life and you just end up stealing all of it. I'm really just this thief that's kind of good at putting the thievery down in words. So its sort of everything you run into.

TV: Did you go into this book, or any of your writings with a certain intent? I know some writers just begin writing and things happen from there. What's your process?

SW: The way my writing works, because of that drafting process, I kind of had the building blocks to work with and I was sort of jamming words into different configurations. So by the time I got to the last draft I knew very well what I was doing and why. Particularly when it comes to the things that happen to the character that are negative, dark and twisted. Those came to kind of at the end of the process. It kind of was a culmination of understanding about what I was doing with the book and what issues I was approaching. So, none of the twists are for shock-value, it's all very deliberate.

TV: Do you have any words of advice for people aspiring to write novels and maybe be published one day?

SW: I've read a lot of advice online, none of which I've followed. If I were just to look at my own life and what I've done to get where I am with writing, not necessarily business-wise, but to get to the point of comfort that I have writing fiction, I would say write because you love to write. Don't think about being published, act as though you never will, even though you might. Just think hard. Push your boundaries. Try everything and cross genres. Basically, be as promiscuous as possible with your writing. That's how you find what you're good at, what's significant to you, what you love.

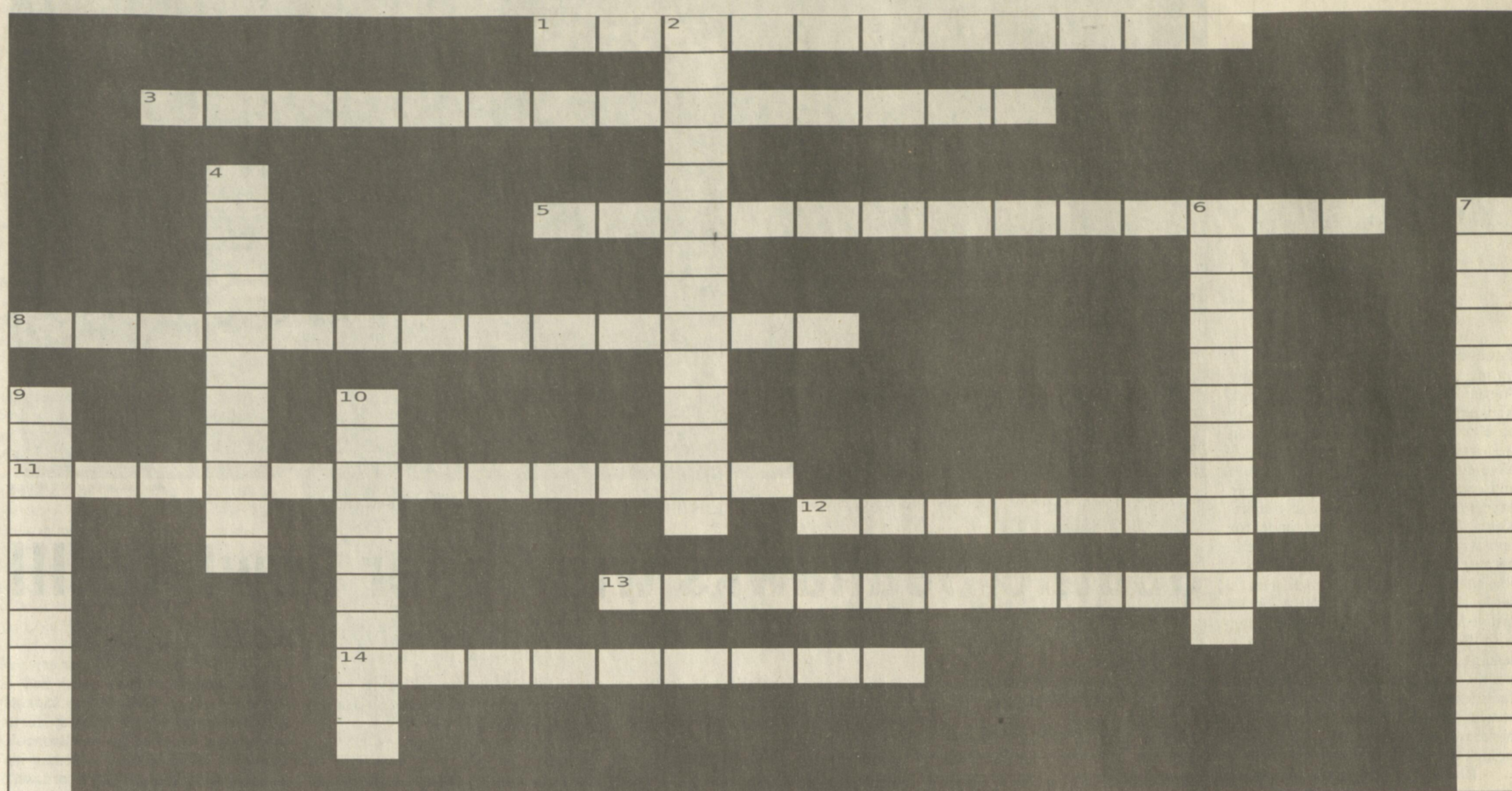


Photos Courtesy of Shannon Wheeler

ARTS & CULTURE

13

FAMOUS PEOPLE CROSSWORD



Across

1. Current Speaker of the House.

3. American comedian, 13 time Emmy nominee, and host of The View.

5. African American abolitionist that helped slaves escape using the Underground Railroad.

8. Most decorated Olympian of all time.

11. The only President to resign from office.

12. German philosopher famous for writing The Communist Manifesto.

13. A former Olympian, and currently a reality TV star.

14. American Suffragist and main leader of the campaign for the 19th amendment.

Down

2. Former US Secretary of State, US Senator, and First Lady.

4. Mongolian leader and founder of the largest contiguous empire in history.

6. Actress with the most Oscar nominations.

7. Oscar winning actress who came to fame for roles in

films such as Winter's Bone and the Hunger Games.

9. First human to journey into outer space.

10. Former senator from Illinois, and 44th President of the United States.

By Anastasia Macdonald
ASST. A&C EDITOR

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CITIZEN HOPE
& ALICE SMITHBALBOA THEATRE
SAN DIEGO, CA
SATURDAY 2/8/14
8 PMZAPPA PLAYS
ZAPPAHOUSE OF BLUES
SAN DIEGO, CA
SUNDAY 2/9/2014
7:00 PM

Image by Dman41689/Wikimedia Commons

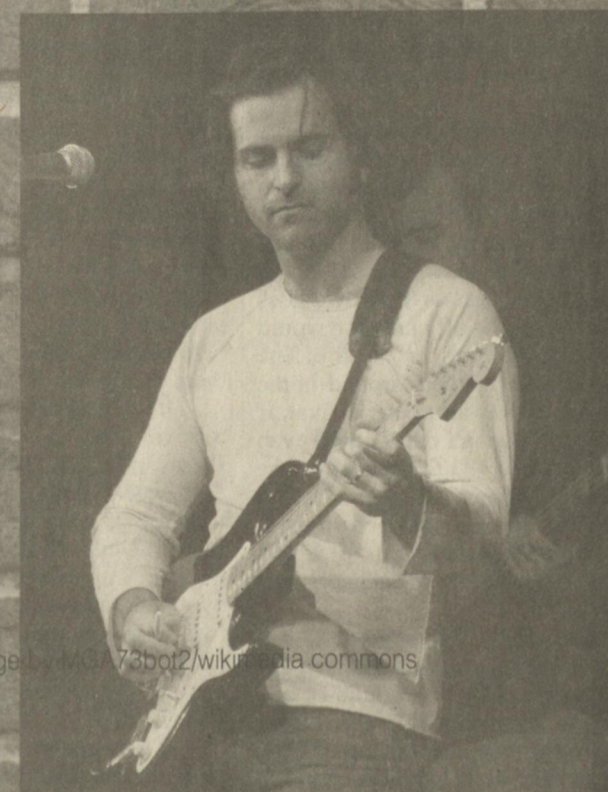
SOMA
SAN DIEGO, CA
SUNDAY 2/9/2014
YOUNG THE GIANT
CAYUCAS
& VANCE JOY

Image by MGA73bot2/Wikimedia Commons

Image by FunkMonk/Wikimedia Commons

Kassi Karabaich/The Vista

SPORTS

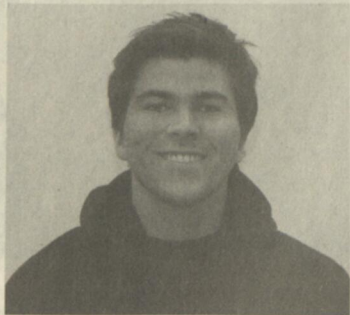
EDITOR

Hunter Jameson
sports@usdvista.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Maya Arrieta
sports2@usdvista.com

Keep Dreamin'



By Hunter Jameson
SPORTS EDITOR

Growing up as an avid baseball fan and player, I always dreamed of hitting a walk-off home run. Watching Aaron Boone send the New York Yankees to the 2003 World Series with an eleventh inning walk-off home run was one of the most exciting things I have ever seen. Recently, in the NBA and men's college basketball, there have been a lot of game-winning shots. Kevin Durant had a jersey made for him with the last name "Kid Clutch" because of his amazing performances. Ray Allen saved the Miami Heat's season in game six of the NBA Finals last year on a game tying three-pointer with the season on the line, eventually leading to a Championship. All of this drama poses the question; as a sports fan dreaming as a professional, which would you rather do: hit a walk-off home run, make a game-winning shot, or kick the game winning field goal?

Bottom of the ninth inning, 2 outs and the game tied, who wouldn't want to be the hero? What if you could have the ball with the game tied and 10 seconds left in the NBA Finals? You make the shot and the crowd goes wild. Football also has its own drama late in the game. Former New England Patriots' kicker Adam Vinatieri has made two Super Bowl winning field goals, putting him among the most legendary players ever. Thinking about these moments sends chills down my spine. For me, this choice is probably harder than my college decision.

One factor that definitely plays a factor is which sport you prefer, or who your favorite team is. I can probably say that Kobe Bryant would've picked the game-winning basketball shot when he was dreaming as a young athlete. Let me consider this option for a moment. If you make the shot, fans are most likely going to rush the court and put you on their shoulders like a king. Silencing the crowd on the opposing team's home court might be even better than doing it at home, depending on what kind of player you are. Michael Jordan clinched the 1998 NBA Finals with a game winning shot against the Utah Jazz, creating a poster that continues to hang in bedrooms over a decade later. The rush of watching the ball go through the hoop would probably give an adrenaline rush similar to jumping out of an airplane. Most likely, you won't even be able to recall exactly what happened because of how much madness would ensue.

Now let's look at the game winning field goal. I honestly feel bad for kickers because of how much pressure is put on them. They basically stand on the sidelines all game, then get put in at the most crucial play of the season thus far, and are expected to excel. They aren't even allowed to adequately warm up, meaning that the last time they actually kicked a ball through the uprights was at halftime. Poor University of Alabama kicker Cade Foster received death threats after missing too many field goals against the University of Auburn this season. Except for the cold-blooded kickers who come up clutch like Adam Vinatieri, I would probably lose 10 years of my life from so much stress leading up to the kick. For this reason, the game-winning field goal is out of the question.

I'm the type of person who likes to thoroughly enjoy the good things in life. I can eat a bowl of ice cream in about 2 minutes, but you can bet that I had a smile on my face for all 120 seconds. What I'm trying to say is rounding those bases as the crowd goes wild after my walk-off home run would be the best 20 seconds of my life. The rest of the team gathers around home plate, anxiously awaiting my arrival. If I really want to go all out, I could even give the pitcher a little nod after the ball reaches the outfield seats. And to top it all off, coming out of the dugout one last time for that curtain call would be a lasting memory for players and fans alike.

Ultimately, the question is whether or not you would be up for the challenge. Maybe a hole-in-one to win The Masters Championship in golf is your preference, but either way, the world will be a lot more exciting during any of these moments. These are the situations that players and fans dream of, and I can only hope that they continue to attract more people to the world of sports.



The Seattle Seahawks kick off to the Denver Broncos to start Super Bowl XLVIII. Seattle would go on to defeat Denver 43-8 at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. Photo Courtesy of Nick Noriega

Seattle Seahawks win Super Bowl XLVIII

Denver Broncos fall 43-8 in a disappointing performance

By Hunter Jameson
SPORTS EDITOR

The National Football League is comprised of 32 very talented teams that compete for the coveted Lombardi Trophy, given to the Super Bowl champion. Every Sunday, teams fight for their chance to make the playoffs in the hopes of paying their way into the history books. Twelve teams make the playoffs, 6 from the American Football Conference and six from the National Football Conference. This season there were arguably four teams that had the highest chance of making the Super Bowl: Seattle Seahawks and San Francisco 49ers from the NFC, and New England Patriots and Denver Broncos from the AFC. The predictions were correct; these were the two matchups in the Conference Championship games.

Star quarterbacks Peyton Manning for the Broncos and Tom Brady for the Patriots squared off in a battle of offense, where Manning would put on a show at Mile High Stadium in Denver, CO. The Broncos beat the Patriots 26-16 and Manning finished with 400 passing yards and two touchdowns.

The NFC Championship however, was a much closer game, with the Seahawks just edging out the 49ers 23-17. Linebacker Malcolm Smith intercepted a potential game-winning touchdown pass intended for 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree. Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman made the most important part of the play by tipping the pass to Smith. Following his clutch play, Sherman let his emotions fly in an interview with reporter Erin Andrews, calling himself "the best corner in the game." Sherman quickly became the most popular player during the NFL media days prior to the Super Bowl festivities.

This was the matchup football experts had hoped for all season. The

Bronco's prolific offense will challenge Seattle's stifling defense, or in other words, Peyton Manning against the "Legion of Boom." The "Legion of Boom" or L.O.B is the nickname given to the Seahawks' secondary for how talented each of them are. Cornerback Richard Sherman, free safety Earl Thomas and strong safety Kam Chancellor lead the Boom, as fellow founding member Brandon Browner was recently suspended and did not compete in the playoffs. Cornerbacks Byron Maxwell and Jeremy Lane filled in for Browner and have not missed a beat, embodying the physical nature that comes with being a part of the L.O.B.

In the week leading up to the Super Bowl, Peyton Manning was awarded his record-setting fifth NFL MVP Award. Manning set NFL records with 5,477 passing yards and 55 passing touchdowns this season. His receiving core of Demaryius Thomas, Wes Welker, Eric Decker, Julius Thomas and Jacob Tamme also reaped the benefits of Manning's season. His running backs, Knowshon Moreno and Montee Ball are also a huge reason why the Bronco's offense is so good. Moreno came in with 1,038 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns on the season.

Although most of the attention was on the Seahawk's defense and the Bronco's offense, the other side of each team can also put on a show. Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson has the highest winning percentage of any quarterback in NFL history through his first two seasons in the league.

Running Back Marshawn Lynch is known for being one of the toughest in the NFL at his position, often requiring more than two defenders to tackle him when he has the ball. Wide Receiver Percy Harvin might be the fastest player in the NFL and just returned from an injury that kept him sidelined for a majority of the season. The Bronco's defense has a

very talented group including safety Champ Bailey and linebacker Danny Trevathan.

Both teams come with very talented coaching staffs, especially at the head coach position. John Fox of the Broncos and Pete Carroll have very impressive track records that put them among the best coaches in the league, if making the Super Bowl isn't enough evidence. Fox has battled some serious health issues all season and it is great to see him doing better. His situation was definitely a motivating factor for his team throughout the season.

The game was hosted at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ, home of the New York Giants. The weather was unlike anything the East Coast has seen recently, 40 degrees and little wind. This was exactly what Peyton Manning and Russell Wilson wanted to operate the quarterback position as best possible. Because the Bronco's rely so heavily on Manning's ability to pass, having such good weather gave the advantage to Denver. The Seahawks hand the ball off to Lynch as much as Wilson passes so the weather should not matter as much.

The game began with Seattle winning the coin toss and electing to put their defense on the field first. On the first play of the game, Manning had the snap fly over his head and into the end zone, recovered by Moreno. This gave the Seahawks a 2-0 lead just 12 seconds into the game. Bronco fans were probably having flashbacks of 1990 when the San Francisco 49ers beat the Broncos 55-10 in Super Bowl XXIV. The Seahawks would go on to win 43-8.

Manning could not break the L.O.B, and threw two interceptions in the game. He completed 34-49 passes for 280 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. Russell Wilson showed his maturity despite being such a young leader, finishing 18-25 for 206 yards, two touchdowns and most importantly,

no interceptions. Harvin also had a big day, taking the opening kickoff of the second half all the way for a touchdown. Despite all of the Bronco's struggles, wide receiver Demaryius Thomas set a Super Bowl record with 13 receptions. He also caught the Bronco's only touchdown.

The highly anticipated performance of Richard Sherman lived up to the hype. Sherman had such a presence on the field that Manning rarely threw anywhere near him. Unfortunately, Sherman went down with an ankle injury early in the fourth quarter that kept him out for the remainder of the game. The entire cast of the L.O.B came to play, as Bronco receivers were taking big hits all game long. Kam Chancellor was especially vicious and also had an interception.

When it came time to award an MVP of this Super Bowl, the name announced probably surprised most football fans. With so many big-named players on the field for both teams, it was linebacker Malcolm Smith who received the honor. Smith took a Manning interception back for a touchdown in the second quarter that gave Seattle a 22-0 lead at halftime. There is no doubt that Smith deserves this award because he also had the game saving interception in the NFC championship against the 49ers. Also, former San Diego State Aztec, Heath Farwell, won his first Super Bowl after nine years in the NFL.

With the win, Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll becomes just one of three coaches in the history of football to win an NCAA National Championship and Super Bowl. Carroll won two National Championships at the University of Southern California. The Seahawks have a very bright future ahead of them, with an average age of 26.4. If players like Russell Wilson and Richard Sherman continue to improve, the Seahawks will be dangerous for years to come.

Lady Toreros continue success at home

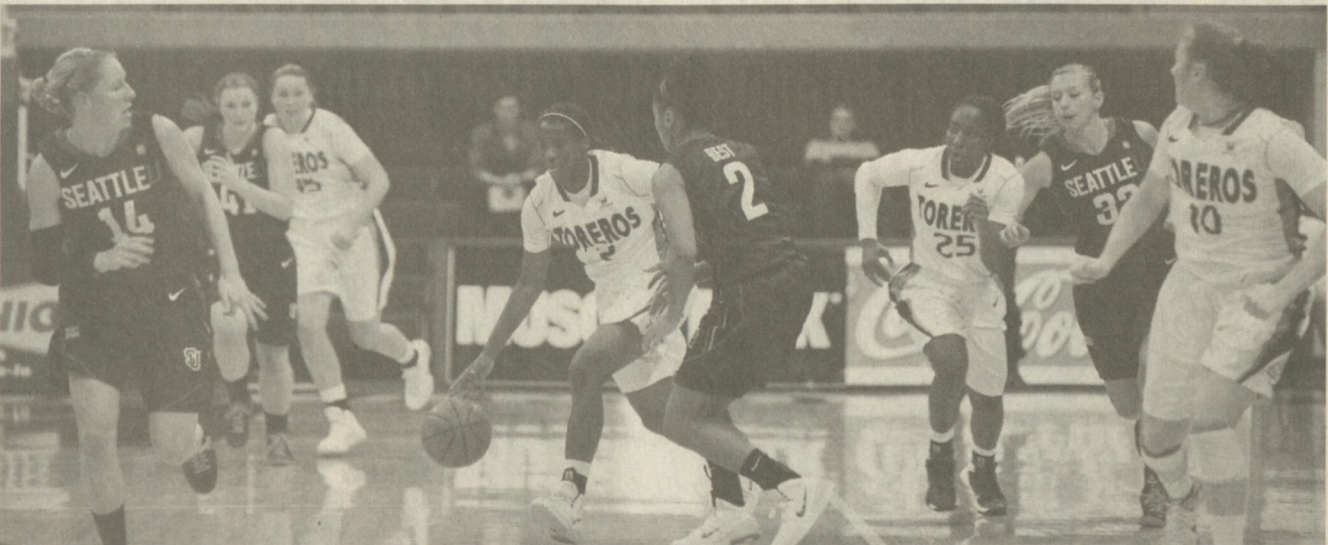
By Maya Arrieta
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The Torero women's basketball team is halfway through what has already been called one of its most successful seasons in school history. The team boasts an impressive overall record of 18-4, with a 7-4 record in conference matchups, and remains undefeated in non-conference games.

The Toreros, led by ninth-year head coach Cindy Fisher, began the season with a record 15-game winning streak, and were ranked in the top 25 in the nation for the first time in the program's history. They were No. 24 before a Jan. 11 loss to Gonzaga caused them to slip out of the rankings.

The Toreros have continued to receive votes in both the Associated Press and USA Today coaches polls each week, keeping them in the hunt for a top 25 spot to wrap up the regular season. Under Fisher, the Toreros have had an impressive tenure, including two consecutive 20-win seasons and two trips to the Women's National Invitation Tournament (WNIT) in the past two years, even reaching the Final Four in 2012.

This season, San Diego has remained prominent in the conversation of teams hopeful to receive an invitation to the 2014 women's NCAA tournament. One of the team's most notable wins this year was an exciting Nov. 13 contest against Arizona State



Sophomore forward Malina Hood drives to the basket in a game against Seattle University. The Toreros are currently 18-4. Photo Courtesy of Michael Foster

University, when the Toreros managed to topple the now 11th ranked Sun Devils. USD remains one of just three teams to have beaten ASU this season.

Other impressive wins have been against Idaho, San Diego State University and Northern Colorado, all of which made it into the post-season last year. Although the Toreros have managed to stay undefeated with a perfect 13-0 record at home, the team has struggled on the road; all of the Toreros' four losses this season have been away games.

The team now faces a two-game losing streak, with losses at University of Pacific and Saint Mary's College in the past week. Saturday's 71-68 loss against Saint Mary's was a key game

for the Toreros, as it determined which team would claim second place in the West Coast Conference, as well as ended USD's six-game winning streak against the Gaels.

However, the team has two upcoming chances to reverse this trend with wins at University of San Francisco on Feb. 6, and at Santa Clara University on Feb. 8.

Senior guard and leading scorer Amy Kame has had an especially outstanding season, averaging over 15 points a game, and most recently matching her season-high of 28 points in Saturday's heartbreaking loss against Saint Mary's. Currently, she has 1,291 points, making her USD's fifth all-time scorer. Kame also earned the

title of NCAA National Player of the Week in early January. Other scoring leaders include sophomore forward Malina Hood and senior forward Felicia Wijenberg, both of whom have contributed greatly to the Toreros' powerful offense.

Senior guard Alysse Barlow has also had an impressive year, and was named the USD Muscle Milk Student Athlete of the Week for the week of Dec. 30. The Toreros are currently ranked third in the WCC, and will have an important opportunity to move up when they face No. 20 Gonzaga at home on Feb. 13. The team has only seven games left in regular season play before heading to Las Vegas on March 6 to compete in the WCC tournament.

Johnny Dee leads Toreros on and off the court

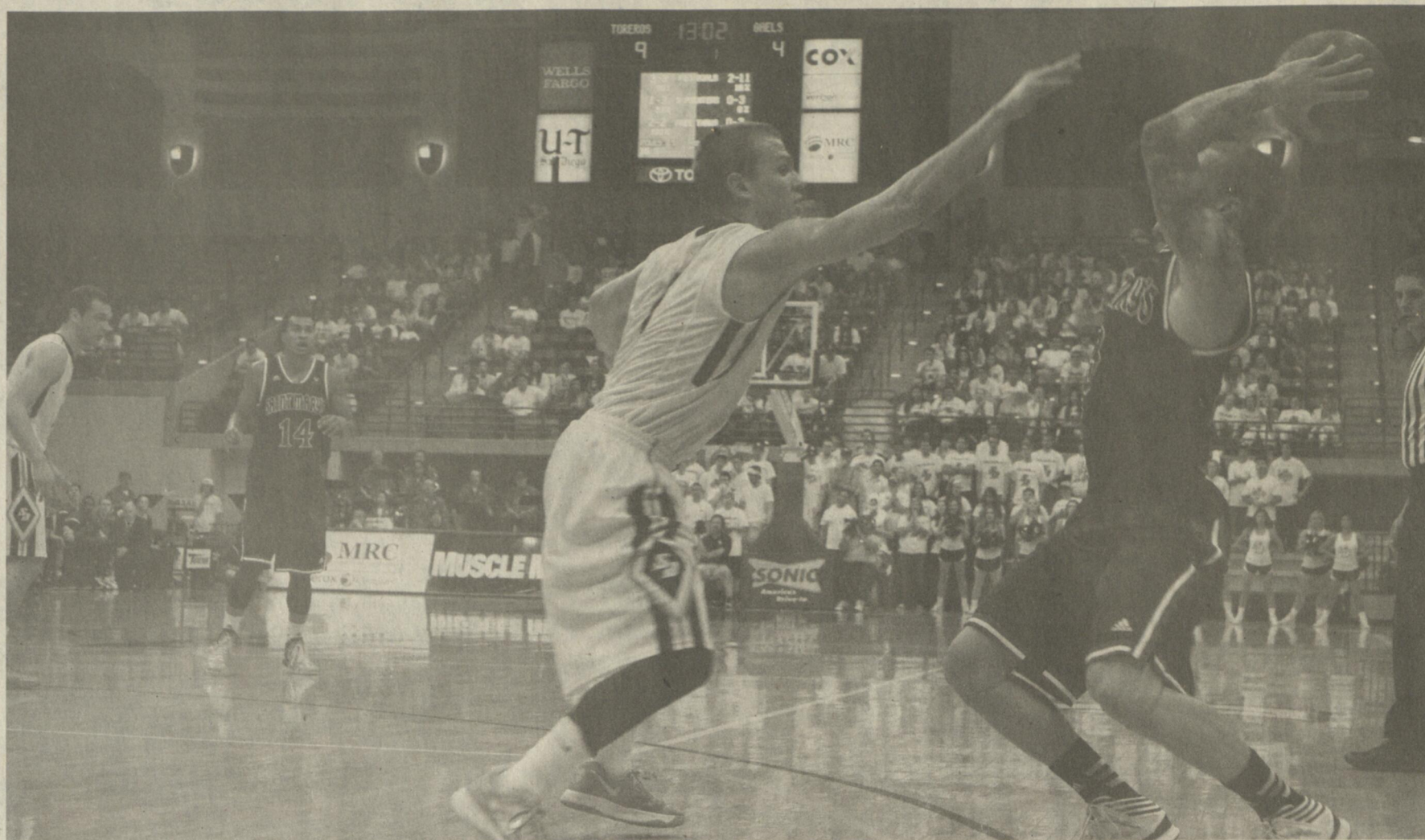
Junior guard earns special academic honor

By Vincent Vidaurri
CONTRIBUTOR

Johnny Dee is having the kind of season most players can only dream of. This year Dee has improved his field goal percentage, three point percentage, free throw percentage, assists per game, steals per game and points per game. He attributes the advances in his playing to the work he and his teammates put in over the offseason. "I think I had a really good offseason, my coach came to me and told me he wanted me to play against Chris Anderson all off season...it made me a better player, handling the ball and being able to come off play screens, its allow me to score in different ways this year and it's been very beneficial."

Before the season begun, Dee was named to the 2013-2014 Lou Henson person All-American Team. The Lou Henson award is annually presented to the top Mid-Major player in Division I basketball. Dee was among the 30 players selected to the ballot and figures to be in contention to win. Along with the Lou Henson award, Dee has been awarded various honors over the year. Dee was awarded both the WCC player of the week and the Muscle Milk player of the week during the week of Jan. 20 to Jan. 26. During that week's games against Gonzaga and Portland, Dee averaged 23.5 points and didn't miss a single free throw or three point attempt, shooting 75 percent from the field overall.

When asked what made his play so special, Dee remained humble and contributed his success to his teammates. "I was just feeling pretty confident [those] night[s], I had some open looks. Any time you have a point guard like Chris Anderson you can find some good shots in the game. He was finding me and all I had to do was make them," Dee said. Dee was also recently named to the District 8 Capital One Academic 1 Team. He currently holds a 3.41 cumulative grade-point average and is majoring in finance. Dee will now advance to the Capital One Academic All-America Team ballot



Junior guard Johnny Dee attempts to block St. Mary's guard Kerry Carter. Dee had 21 points in the game, scoring over 20 points for the seventh time this season.

for a chance to be named to the first, second or third team.

The junior guard has begun to carve out his legacy by setting multiple team records and helping lead the Toreros' to a 13-11 record. Dee has performed particularly well against team rivals, helping the Toreros to wins over quality opponents like Portland and Saint Mary's University. He has scored at least 21 points seven times during the season, with five of those performance totaling 25 points or higher. Continuing on his excellence from last year, Dee has been spectacular from the free line. Currently he is shooting 92.9 percent from the foul line, which leads the

West Coast Conference and ranks him as the fourth in nation. He also leads the WCC in three point field goals made with 69, averaging 2.9 a game and ranks sixth in the WCC for three point percentage with 43.9 percent.

Over a 15 game stretch Dee hit 47 straight free throws, a USD team record. Dee also cracked into USD top ten all time scorers' list this year, passing Ross Craven's 1,233 career points. Currently, Dee has scored 1,348 points in his career at USD and with at least eight games left in the season he has an opportunity to pass up several more names. Dee is also on pace to break disgraced former

USD star Brandon Johnson's all time school record of 1,790 points next year. As well as he has been playing, Dee realizes that he and the team can continue to improve. "We have to execute down the stretch...we've had a lot of close games, we've lost multiple games by under four including the one point loss to San Diego State so moving forward we have to close those games out and make free throws and make plays down the stretch and get stops and rebounds."

Consistency will be key for the remainder of the Toreros' season, who have shown they can compete with teams ranked in the nation's top 25 in

both Gonzaga and SDSU. With Dee's deadly shooting, the play making ability of Chris Anderson and the shot blocking prowess of Dennis Kramer, the Toreros look to be dangerous in the upcoming WCC tournament.

Conquering that tournament has been made the team's goal. "We wanna be in the top five in conference going in, hopefully top four even. It would be a good place to be going into the conference tournament and then we wanna win that tournament and play in the postseason," Dee said. With Dee and a majority of returning players next year, the Toreros figure to be in good shape for years to come.

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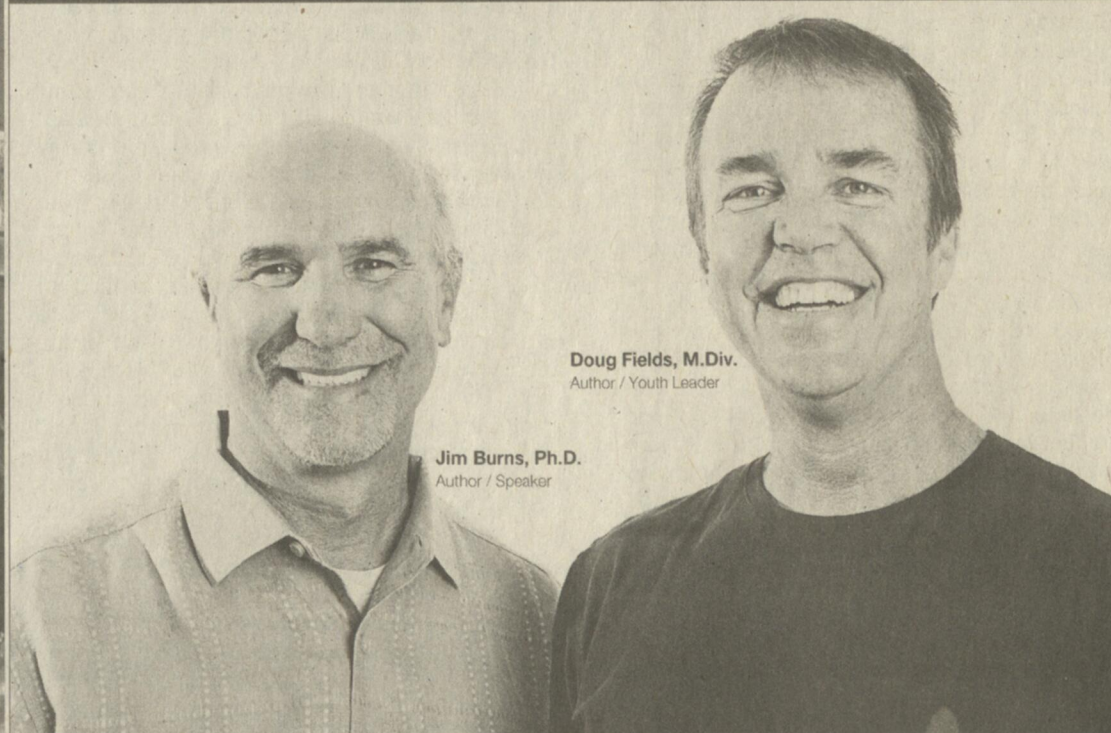
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Someone slams home an ally-oop during the first half of the USD vs St. Mary's game. The Toreros would go on to defeat the Gaels 61-43.

Kevin Nelson / The Vista

Men's Basketball splits weekend at home

Toreros beat St. Mary's but lost to University of Portland

By Davide de Carle
STAFF WRITER

The University of San Diego Toreros went into last week's basketball games with their heads held high after defeating the University of Portland Pilots in Portland, OR. They also barely lost to the West Coast Conference powerhouse Gonzaga University Bulldogs by three points, one of the closer games the Bulldogs have played all season. In the Torero's upset bid, junior guard Johnny Dee pulled through with 26 points. So far the Toreros are seventh in the WCC, winning only four of their 11 played conference games, meaning that last week's events proved crucial in turning the tide for success in the conference.

Last Thursday the Toreros faced the Saint Mary's College Gaels on their home court in the Jenny Craig Pavilion. A sea of white welcomed the home team as fans did their part to display school spirit by wearing white attire. This sight proved a daunting display for the Gaels, bolstered by the unprecedented number of rowdy students and fans. The Gaels are currently ranked fourth in the WCC. As expected, they proved themselves worthy of their fourth place position by challenging the Toreros throughout the first half of the game. With the coming of a crucial half-time break, the Toreros rallied themselves and commenced their unrivaled path to victory.

With 10 minutes left in the second half, Dee sank an off-balance three at the sound of the shot clock to make the game 44-32 for the home side. This bucket was followed by a stop on the other end and a converted "and-one" play from junior Chris Sarbaugh. This 12-point cushion matched with the determined "ole's" from the student fan-base provoked a series of creative plays from the home side. An alley-oop play to junior Jito Kok that surprised fans as Kok was fouled near the hoop, and a fast break behind-the-back pass to Dee from junior point guard Chris Anderson. The home team's effort thus led to an impressive, even crushing victory at home over the Gaels, 61-43.

However, Saturday's game had a very

different tone and an impressive win to live up to. At 1 p.m. the Toreros tipped off against the Pacific University Tigers, a team currently ranked just under USD at eighth place in the conference. Similar to Thursday's game, the Toreros never seemed to fully break away during the first half. The home team's momentum was definitively stalled however when with four minutes left in the first half the Tigers scored a 3-point shot and a fast break layup, leading to a Torero timeout. Following the timeout the Tigers scored yet another 3-point basket. Both teams played messy basketball that led to a significant scoring drought, and the Toreros free throw shooting struggles continued. The half came to a close with a narrowly missed half court shot from Dee, leaving the score at 40-50 for the Tigers. It seemed as though halftime would be the rest that the Toreros needed, but was not as helpful as expected. The Tigers came in with the same momentum they had in the first half, converting an "and-one" play and another quick two point shot. The Toreros called another full timeout in the hopes of extinguishing the heated Tigers after a 9-3 run making it 43-59. Glimmers of hope shone through for the Toreros after a series of three blocks from Kok and another two from senior forward Dennis Kramer, the defensive effort had the home fans roaring for a timely comeback. The spark did not last long enough, as the streaky Tigers closed out their victory 67-84.

In seeing both games side by side one may begin to think the Toreros play better against stronger competition, yet this may also be a question of the number of home fans in attendance. On Thursday the Jenny Craig Pavilion was teaming with Torero support, the same could not be said for Saturday afternoon. The louder, more devout Tigers fans' cries could be heard over the Torero fan base consisting mainly of San Diego residents and a meager 20 students at best. It could also be said that the Toreros may have underestimated the Tigers. Having just defeated the Gaels, they may have assumed an easy victory and been shocked by the efficient Tiger's offense.



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